

# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 1942

# GETTING THE JOB DONE!

★ ★ 1,850,868 head of livestock were handled at the Kansas City, Omaha and Denver markets during September—meat for the army, navy, industrial war workers and civilians, as well as feeder livestock for farms throughout the Middle West. In spite of labor shortages, this volume was successfully handled and there were no embargoes. ★ ★

What does this mean to you, Mr. Livestock Producer? Suppose the markets and facilities did not exist to handle this volume? Suppose you were rationed so you could only ship at a certain time, regardless of weather or other conditions?

And here's something else for your consideration. The Central Markets offer you a faster turnover at less marketing expense than is possible on any other commodity you

might sell. The selling expense at Central Markets is very small in relation to total value. And for this small selling fee you receive the services of experienced salesmen, with the ability to net the greatest cash returns for your livestock by proper sorting according to grade, class and weight, thus rendering it saleable to buyers who are able to pay higher prices for various classes and grades.

FOR A LARGE, PROFITABLE, CASH OUTLET  
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# FRANKLIN

## VACCINES & SUPPLIES for

### CATTLE SHEEP HORSES HOGS POULTRY

## Reduce Your Livestock Losses!

**D**ON'T let disease cut down the income you need, and the meat supply our nation needs. Protection with FRANKLIN Products is small in cost but large in results. New and improved items are brought out from time to time. Keep informed by looking over current copies of FRANKLIN catalogs. These are gladly sent free upon request. Following are a few important items for protection against fatal diseases:

#### BLACKLEG IN CATTLE

Immunity doses of the famous FRANKLIN Concentrated Culture Blackleg Bacterin consist of the major immunizing elements of more than 10 cc of whole culture condensed into a powerfully potent 1 cc dose. Its 19-year record of lasting immunity with but ONE dose stands unsurpassed in all the annals of veterinary science. Price 10c a dose, less in quantities.

#### MALIGNANT EDEMA IN CATTLE

Very similar to blackleg, yet a different organism is clostridium septicus. So a dose for this deceptive disease is combined with an immunizing dose for blackleg in FRANKLIN Clostridium Chauvei-Septicus Bacterin. The result is double protection for the price of one. 10c a dose with quantity discounts.

#### Recommended Protection Against HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA

in cattle is FRANKLIN Pasteurella-Pseudodiphthericum Bacterin. It combines an immunizing dose against hemorrhagic septicemia with killed cultures from cases of pulmonary edema, thus stimulating resistance against the infections most commonly involved in so-called Shipping Fever. 10c a dose, less in lots of 100 doses or more.

#### ABORTION IN CATTLE (Bang's Disease)

Vaccination of calves officially approved, using FRANKLIN Brucella Abortus Vaccine, made from strain No. 19. Price 35c—less in lots of 10 doses or more.

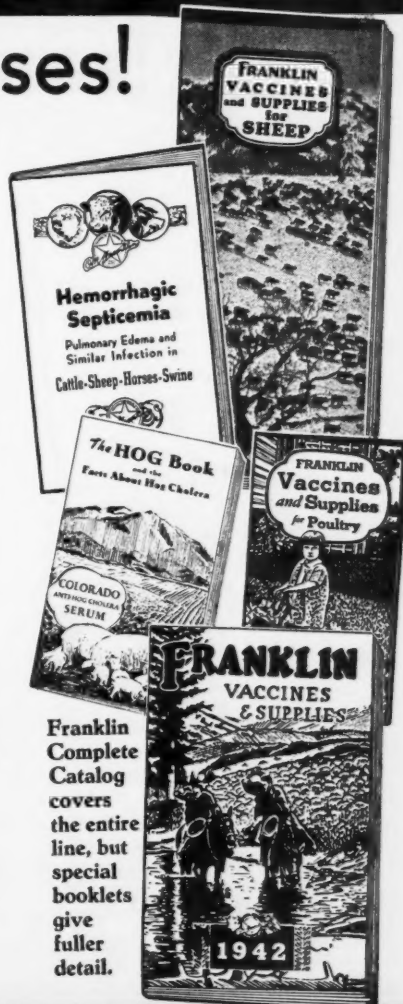
#### DISTEMPER IN HORSES

and similar infections cause many losses. . . . FRANKLIN Mixed Bacterin, Equine Formula 1, is an aid in controlling infections commonly associated in such conditions. 10c a dose.

**A Large Share of Sickness Among Sheep** is a complication of infections associated with hemorrhagic septicemia. FRANKLIN Ovine Mixed Bacterin is an aid in controlling the more prevalent types of such infections. Preventative dose is 5c.

**Dozens of Other Valuable Aids** in reducing livestock losses are shown in free Franklin catalogs. Ask your local Franklin Dealer, or write to the nearest Franklin office.

**O. M. FRANKLIN SERUM COMPANY**  
DENVER KANSAS CITY EL PASO MARFA AMARILLO FT. WORTH  
WICHITA ALLIANCE SALT LAKE CITY LOS ANGELES



★ VACCINES ARE VITAL TO THE MEAT SUPPLY OF AMERICA ★



## **TWICE AS MUCH *goes* under the FIGHTER'S BELT**

**A**S FAR as the farmer is concerned, a man in uniform is a far better customer than a man in "civvies."

The soldier eats for example, more than twice as much meat as the average for folks at home. The figures are: 153 pounds of meat a year for the average civilian—365 pounds for the fighting man.

It's almost the same with fruits and vegetables. The folks at home average about 500 pounds. But the man in uniform accounts for over 800 pounds per man.

Moving these foodstuffs quickly and properly is another of the railroads' wartime responsibilities—for food is an important part of

the million and a quarter tons of freight the railroads move a mile every minute of the day and night.

It accounts for many of the cars in the loaded freight trains the railroads are sending off at five-second intervals.

To carry all the materials the railroads are asked to handle cars cannot be allowed to stand idle.

And you can help to keep them moving. Just remember this: load them as soon as they arrive—and load them to the limit.

Then it will be up to the railroads to speed them on their way—to get the double ration under the fighters' belts—and to get the usual food supplies to the folks at home.

ASSOCIATION OF  
**AMERICAN**



**RAILROADS**

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## **LETTERS**

### **GRASS STIRRUP-HIGH**

The past season has been an exceptionally good one for cattle—stirrup-high grass everywhere, and no one is riding shetland ponies, either. Old-timers consider it the best grass year since 1915. Marketing is about wound up for this year, except for a few big strings of feeder steers. Dry cows have weighed the heaviest and brought the highest prices ever known in this section. There is an abundance of grass on winter ranges, with plenty of hay on most ranches. Ranch labor is extremely scarce.—N. A. JACOBSEN, County Extension Agent, Custer County, Mont.

### **EXCELLENT SEASON**

This has been an excellent season for livestock. July's moisture was above normal, but it was very dry from August 2 until rain in the latter part of September which brought an inch of moisture. The quality of the winter grass should be better than a year ago. Some local contracting of calves and yearlings in late September was at these figures: calves 12 and 13 cents; yearling steers \$11.50 to \$12.—OSCAR T. YODER, Goshen County, Wyo.

I am operating a 15,000-acre ranch, and if they take my key man I will be compelled to sell and quit, for I am sixty-five years old and cannot depend on the kind of help we will be expected to use. I have been in the hay field more this year than for eight years and cannot stand another one like it. Next year will most likely be still worse.—ROY PARKER, Sheridan County, Neb.

Never has sandhill pasture been better. We are running 1,000 breeding cows and all are looking fine. The spring flood helped our meadow instead of ruining it. We put up 100 tons more hay this year than last.—70 RANCH CORPORATION, Weld County, Colo.

Find enclosed checks covering dues to your association. We congratulate you for the good work, and assure you we are behind you.—NORTHERN ARIZONA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION, A. T. HUTCHERSON, Secretary, and JOHN JONES, President.

Conditions in Wallowa County are very good. We have had quite a dry fall and grass had a chance to cure well. All stock is going into the winter in very good condition.—CHAS. JOHNSON, Wallowa County, Ore.

Feed conditions are above normal. Cattle and sheep are in fine condition. The labor situation is none too good. A lot of young stock growers have gone to the army.—J. P. CASABONNE, Eddy County, N. M.

**AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER**



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## WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE?

By DOROTHEA V. SMITH

MAN HAS ALWAYS LOOKED AT the sky, noted its appearance, and set his course accordingly.

"Red sky in the morning,  
Sailors take warning;  
Red sky at night,  
Sailors' delight."

Man's weather eye and proverbs were long his only guides to fair weather and foul. Then the study to foretell winds and weather broadened. Governments established nation-wide atmospheric surveys. Meteorology became an exact science. Weather reports emanated from

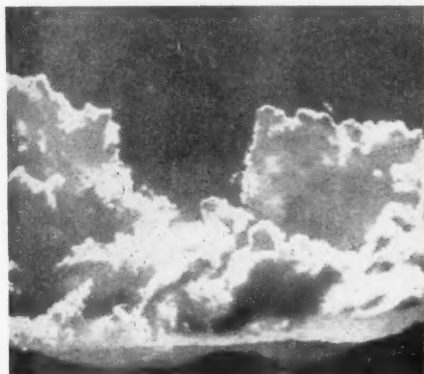
press and radio. Highly dependable forecasts became everybody's property. Now in wartime we are thrown back on original resources, the feel of the weather.

With all its proverbial basis, the individual's ability to forecast weather changes has its limitations. This must be recognized. A weather expert, George S. Bliss, Weather Bureau meteorologist, explains this:

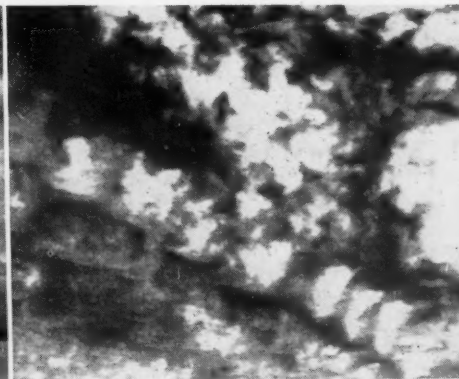
"Weather changes are not usually definitely heralded by local indications for a period longer than twelve hours in advance, while many local storms

give scarcely an hour's notice of their coming. Very few indications apply with equal force to all parts of the country. Conditions along the Pacific coast differ materially from those along the Atlantic coast, the Gulf coast, or the interior of the continent, and in the interior there is a great difference between conditions in the Rocky Mountain region and the central valleys or the Great Lakes. Many signs which might be considered reliable in the Ohio Valley would be valueless in the drier regions of the far Southwest.

"The person who would learn to fore-



Low clouds: The cumulus at the left may afford rain or thunder gusts, though groups of small ones indicate fine weather; the cumulo-nimbus in the center may mean showers of rain, snow, sleet, or hail; the strato-cumulus at the right gives at times an undulated appearance but is a fair-weather cloud.



Middle clouds: The alto-stratus translucidus cloud in the left picture probably is a forerunner of stormy weather. The alto-cumulus in the center, which is developing into a cumulus, has no particular weather change significance; it might mean an afternoon thunderstorm. The alto-cumulus floccus at the right is a fair-weather cloud.

November, 1942



The thunderous sky at the left is made up of clouds in the middle cloud region. The cirro-cumulus at the right—a type of so-called mackerel sky—often precedes a change, especially from calm to blowy weather. This type appears in the highest cloud region—20,000 to 30,000 feet.

cast from local observations will do well to confine his efforts to the detection of weather changes a few hours in advance. It is reasonable to expect a continuation of observed conditions until there are decided indications of a change.

"In order that one may formulate such local prognostics as may be distinctly applicable to the locality in which he lives he should proceed in a careful and systematic manner to record and correlate his observations."

#### Proverbs

Proverbs are a picturesque, although not always reliable, way of prophesying weather. Scientific forecasting has proved some to be sound. Others have no foundation in fact. Mr. Bliss, in Weather Bureau Bulletin No. 42, classifies the proverbs and gives their probable value:

"Weather proverbs will not be found to be generally applicable, and only those which when analyzed are found to be based upon scientific fact and principles will be worth considering.

"Proverbs pertaining to the condition of the atmosphere, the appearance of the sky, the character and movements of the clouds, and the direction and force of the winds are, generally speaking, all that are worth testing out for one's particular locality.

"Proverbs regarding the actions of birds and animals are usually of little value. Marked changes in the atmospheric conditions are responsible for their peculiar antics, and these same changes are generally preceded by reliable indications if one learns to observe and interpret them.

"Sayings which pertain to the moon and the planets are wholly foreign to the subject, and those which apply to forecasts for coming seasons are entirely without foundation. Peculiar growths and developments in vegetation are the results of weather conditions that have passed and have no connection with those to come. The character of the muskrat's house or the beaver's dam is the direct result of the stage of the

water at the time the structures were made."

Probably the best known of weather sayings is the one already cited about the sailors and the red sky. It is in accord with scientific findings. But the forecaster also must understand colors in the sky. For example, a rosy cloudless morning sky foretells a fair day, while a dark red cloudy morning sky means bad weather. In the same way, a light red evening sky means that the following day will be fair and without rain, as in the proverb, while dark somber red in a cloudy evening sky means gray and rain the next day.

Some other well-founded proverbs:

"The higher the clouds, the finer the weather."

This applies to clouds of the cumulus type and not to the highest cloud forms—cirrus.

"Rain long foretold, long last;  
Short notice, soon past."

That proverb tells its own story.

"Pale moon doth rain,  
Red moon doth blow,  
White moon doth neither rain or snow."  
"When the wind backs and the weather-glass falls,  
Then be on your guard against gales and squalls."

A backing is a counterclockwise change in the direction of the wind.

#### Rainmaking

Some believe in the rainmaker. Mr. Bliss does not:

"A common method employed by the so-called rainmakers has been to explode bombs at the usual elevation of the rain clouds, on the theory that the resulting concussions would condense and precipitate the atmospheric moisture. This theory, which has never been given much credence by meteorologists, can be effectively disproved by an analysis of the conditions attending and following the heavy bombardments that occurred during the World War."

Others persist in attributing to the equinoxes the equinoctial gales or storms. E. B. Gittings, in charge of the regional office of the Weather Bureau in Denver, scouts this belief:

"The equinoxes are of no significance as far as weather changes are concerned. Coming in March and September, they occur at periods of transition in weather when changes may occur."

#### The Barometer

The forecaster will find the barometer a useful instrument. But he must remember that it indicates atmospheric pressure only. Its fluctuations must be interpreted in connection with the direction of the wind and the state of the sky.

The Weather Bureau's bulletin points the way to proper use of the barometer:

"Inasmuch as the barometric pressure is the main feature of the weather map and is of as much importance to the forecaster as all of the other information combined, it is equally as essential that the local observer should be equipped with some means by which to detect changes in atmospheric pressure. The pressure changes in connection with the wind direction will give him the key to the situation. There are certain wind-barometer indications that are generally applicable to all parts of our country, and the following statements are published on all Weather Bureau daily maps:

"When the wind sets in from points between south and southeast and the barometer falls steadily, a storm is approaching from the west or northwest, and its center will pass near or north of the observer within twelve to twenty-four hours, with wind shifting to northwest by way of south and southwest. When the wind sets in from points between east and northeast and the barometer falls steadily, a storm is approaching from the south or southwest, and its center will pass near or to the south of the observer within twelve to twenty-four hours, with wind shifting to northwest by way of north. The rapidity of



the storm's approach and its intensity will be indicated by the rate and the amount of the fall in the barometer.'

### Observing and Classifying

"A series of observations, when compared and classified, will soon reveal certain well-defined relations that will enable the observer to begin a list of reliable indications. The list will increase with the period of observations, and established rules will be modified by noting the most common exceptions. Some indications which are reliable for one season of the year will need to be materially changed in order to apply to the conditions of a different time of the year.

"The observer should remember that all weather changes are the results of physical conditions occasioned by the unequal heating of the atmosphere and modified by the locality and the character of the surrounding country. Everything savoring of astrology, or of the mysterious in general, should be entirely rejected, and he should proceed with his work on a purely physical and scientific basis.

The subjoined wind and barometer indications were prepared by Professor E. B. Garriott (deceased) when he was chief forecaster in the Weather Bureau.

### Weather Bureau Forecasts

It is interesting to note from another Weather Bureau publication, compiled by E. R. Calvert, how weather warnings affect the daily life of people.

In the cities, the use made of temperature forecasts are more varied than is generally supposed. For instance, with notice of approaching cold, greenhouses are closed and boilers fired; work in concrete is stopped; city departments determine the number of teams needed in street sprinkling; gas companies turn more gas into their lines; merchants curtail advertisements or direct attention to cold-weather articles; agents of marine insurance companies may refrain from insuring cargoes if a storm has been predicted.

Sailings of innumerable vessels on oceans and lakes are largely determined by Weather Bureau warnings; farmers look closely to weather reports; the Forest Service makes preparations on fire-weather warnings; transportation companies make continued use of forecasts in their shipments; western ranchers, on notice of a blizzard or heavy snow, hurry their stock from open to sheltered country.

Stockmen should be told that they are not entirely on their own in the problem of weather forecasting, Mr. Gittings, of the Weather Bureau at Denver, told the compiler of these paragraphs. They will continue to receive from the Weather Bureau, by means of the radio, warnings perhaps twenty-four or thirty-six hours ahead of approaching bad storms.

### Weather Significance in the United States of Barometer and Wind Direction

Wind direction	Barometer	Character of weather indicated
S.W. to N.W.	High and steady	Fair, with slight temperature changes, for one to two days.
S.W. to N.W.	High and rising rapidly	Fair, followed within two days by rain.
S.W. to N.W.	Very high and stationary	Continued fair, with no decided temperature change.
S.W. to N.W.	Very high and falling slowly	Slowly rising temperature and fair for two days.
S. to S.E.	High and falling slowly	Rain within twenty-four hours.
S. to S.E.	High and falling rapidly	Wind increasing in force, with rain within twelve to twenty-four hours.
S.E. to N.E.	High and falling slowly	Rain in twelve to eighteen hours.
S.E. to N.E.	High and falling rapidly	Increasing wind, and rain within twelve hours.
E. to N.E.	High and falling slowly	In summer, with light winds, rain may not fall for several days. In winter, rain within twenty-four hours.
E. to N.E.	High and falling rapidly	In summer, rain probable in twelve to twenty-four hours. In winter, rain or snow, with increasing winds, will often set in when the barometer begins to fall and the wind sets in from the N.E.
S.E. to N.E.	Low and falling slowly	Rain will continue one to two days.
S.E. to N.E.	Low and falling rapidly	Rain, with high wind, followed, within thirty-six hours, by clearing, and in winter by colder.
S. to S.W.	Low and rising slowly	Clearing within a few hours, and fair for several days.
S. to E.	Low and falling rapidly	Severe storm imminent, followed, within twenty-four hours, by clearing, and in winter by colder.
E. to N.	Low and falling rapidly	Severe northeast gale and heavy heavy precipitation; in winter, heavy snow, followed by a cold wave.
Going to W.	Low and rising rapidly	Clearing and colder.

## ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF LAND CONSERVATION

By MONT H. SAUNDERSON

A PREVAILING BELIEF AMONG conservation groups is that overuse of western grazing lands is universally unprofitable to the individual ranch operator; that it pays the individual user to use range land at such intensity as will maintain or improve the plant cover and the soil.

If the work of scientific investigation shows that this belief is well-founded, we must logically conclude that the primary approach to present overgrazing problems on controlled range lands is that of demonstration and extension

This paper was delivered at a recent meeting of the Montana Academy of Science.

work, with the stockman range user, on the production economics of range land conservation. The objective of such demonstration and extension work would be to show the users of heavily used ranges that a lighter use than they have practiced in the past will increase their net ranch income, and not at some indefinite future time but within a period of one, two, or three years.

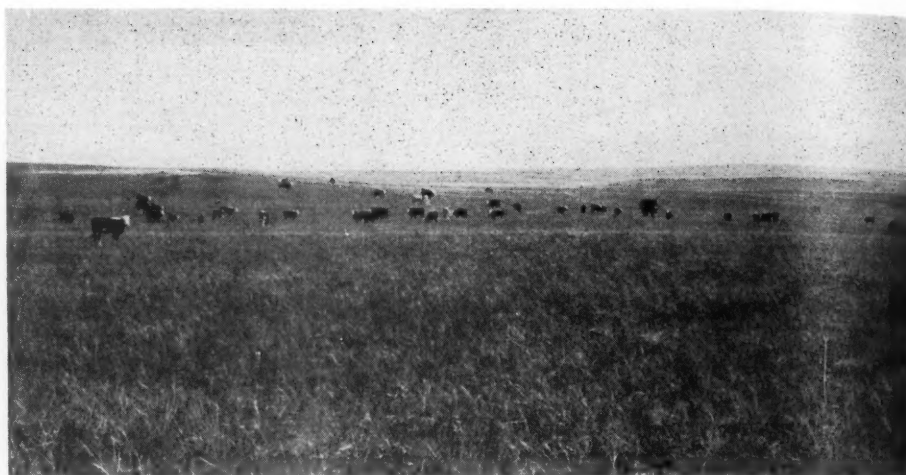
### Interpretation of Plains Studies

The work of range and livestock management science in the Great Plains section of the West does point rather consistently to the conclusion that a level of

use which results in something like the original association and density of the short grass and the mid-grasses will also maximize the individual ranch operator's net income. In other words, this work indicates that the immediate income objectives of the ranch operation are in harmony with good plant, soil, and animal ecology. The work at the Miles City, Montana, station, at the Mandan, North Dakota, station, and at the New Mexico State College experimental range consistently arrives at this answer.

The ranch studies conducted by the Montana agricultural experiment station during the years 1929 to 1933 show that for this period the eastern Montana cattle ranches were, as an average, carrying about twenty head of cattle, exclusive of calves, per section of range land for the grazing season of nine months. The average weight of long yearlings marketed—that is, animals eighteen months of age at the time of marketing in the fall—was approximately 650 pounds. A similar set of eastern Montana cattle ranch records for the year 1939 showed an average long yearling weight of 740 pounds. The best available estimates indicate that these ranches were carrying about two-thirds as many stock in 1939 as were carried during the 1929 to 1933 period. This ninety-pound difference in market weight for long yearling animals would result in a weight of beef marketed in 1939 equal to about 85 per cent of the annual marketing during the 1929 to 1933 period. The price differential in favor of better grades of animals and the lower operating cost of the smaller number of animals maintained in 1939 should yield net ranch incomes equal to if not better than for the 1929 to 1933 period. There is, of course, no certainty that all of this difference in market weights of animals is to be attributed to the lighter stocking of ranges in 1939 compared with the 1929 to 1933 period.

The New Mexico State College experimental range has been stocked at a rate of about eight head of cattle per section for year-long grazing. The experimental area is a productive black grama grass range, and a range of this type and quality is generally stocked at about fifteen head to the section by range livestock operators. The weight of the long yearlings marketed from the experimental range is 750 to 800 pounds. These weights are secured without the use of supplements. The weight of the long yearlings of adjacent ranch operators has averaged around 600 pounds during the same period. The calf crop has averaged 95 per cent for the experimental range cattle and about 65 per cent for the surrounding ranch operations. The comparative figures for annual death loss are 2 per cent and 4 per cent. These data, when put in terms of ranch operations, indicate that the rate of stocking for the experimental range will produce a higher market weight of beef per acre, a higher gross income, and a considerably higher net income than



Typical plains and mountain range land. Their management problems differ.

will the intensity of use that now generally prevails on this type of range.

It is the judgment of range technicians that this experimental range could carry more livestock and produce more beef in the favorable years but that this would require better means of determining safe upper limits of intensity of use than are now available. There is, however, a better opportunity in this part of the southern plains compared with the northern plains to regulate the marketing program in response to fluctuating range forage production. This is due to the fact that the important period of range growth in southern New Mexico is August, September, and October, or just prior to the livestock marketing period. In contrast, the most important period of range growth in the northern plains is April, May, and June, so the amount of range feed available for the coming year cannot be known at the time of livestock marketing in October and November. This contrast in the opportunity to judge the amount of range forage available for this coming season emphasizes the even greater need in the

northern plains for a grazing intensity sufficiently moderate to minimize the necessity of adjusting livestock numbers in response to the annual fluctuations in the range forage yield.

If we translate the results of the Miles City and Las Cruces work, showing the response of animal production to different intensities of grazing, into net income figures for ranch operations, the conclusion is that a ranch operator can secure about twice as great a net income from a moderate intensity of grazing as from the heavy grazing which utilizes most of the season's plant growth. These studies in the plains show that heavy grazing reduces the volume of forage production, particularly of the mid-grasses, but that the short, sod-forming grasses stay on the job even after their volume growth is impaired, and that animal weights can remain low for a period of years before the plant cover and the soil suffer material losses. This is to say that animal weights do appear to be a good indication of what constitutes a desirable intensity of grazing in the Plains.





# WHAT'S A STEER WORTH?

SOME people say a steer is worth what it costs to produce, plus a profit—but every business man, whether he be a farmer or a merchant, knows that anything is worth only what somebody will pay for it and its cost is a minor factor.

Do the producers of steers, hogs and sheep get the full value of their animals when they sell them at the nation's market places? The answer to that question depends on these factors:

1. How much the consuming public is willing to pay for the products which are made from the meat animal.
2. What portion of the consumer's dollar goes back to the producer?
3. Is the work of converting live animals into meat and by-products performed efficiently?

4. How much profit does the packer get?

Approximately 75% of what packers receive for meat and by-products goes back to the producers of livestock.

The efficiency of the packing industry is generally recognized and few industries are able to maintain themselves on as small a portion of their total income as is the packing industry.

Packers' profits over a long period of years have averaged less than two cents per dollar of sales and less than 6% on capital invested in plants, equipment, etc.

The smallness of packers' profits and the large portion of the total revenue which goes back to the producers are positive evidence that natural laws of competition and good business management are operating to make a steer net its producer all that the public says it is worth.



This is Armour and Company's Diamond Jubilee Year. We have been in business three-quarters of a century and only firms which render useful service to the public, which are well

managed, and which conform to business ethics and to the laws of the land are able to remain in business and expand with the country over such a long period of time.



## ARMOUR AND COMPANY

### In the Mountain Range Lands

How far can we safely generalize the conclusion from the work in the Plains that a considerably lighter degree of stocking of range lands than has been the usual practice will result in higher net ranch incomes? The Plains are the only part of the western range where any considerable scientific work has been done to give the comparative results of animal production under different intensities of grazing. We should note exceptions to this for the work in progress at the desert branch station of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station on the winter ranges of western Utah and eastern Nevada, and for the work of the San Joaquin, California, experimental range showing the effect upon cattle weights of different intensities of grazing on the zone of annual grasses on the foothills of the Sierras and coastal mountains around the California central valleys.

There is little or nothing available from scientific work showing the response of livestock weights and production under different intensities of grazing on the mountain range lands of the West. The observations of range management technicians suggest that it is possible to maintain livestock numbers and market weights of animals on some types of the western mountain range lands over quite a long period of time, under such a degree of overuse as destroys the types of vegetation that protect soils, with resulting progressive losses of mountail soils. If this observation is correct—that animal numbers and weights can be maintained over a period of time under such conditions—there is, of course, an eventual time limit to such situations. But that time limit may be too remote to influence the economic calculations of the individual ranch operator. The objectives of saving the resources for posterity or of the preservation of mountain watersheds for downstream water users are not nearly so concrete or urgent to the grazier as the maximizing of his income opportunity during his lifetime.

### Ecological and Management Differences

Let us consider some of the possible differences in the ecological and management situations for the Great Plains ranges and the western mountain range lands that could cause a sharp contrast in the ranch economics of range land conservation.

The Great Plains ranges are essentially grassland ranges and there are no extreme differences in the preferences of livestock for the different plants that provide most of the range forage. There is generally no very difficult management problem on the level and rolling ranges of the Plains in securing the distribution of use by livestock over a range area. As a result, a Plains range affords a definite amount of feed that is uniformly and readily available for livestock production; and, if such range is

heavily stocked, the maintenance requirement of the animals absorbs a high proportion of the available feed, with the consequence that too small a margin is available to produce adequate gains of market animals. The economic importance of this is that heavy use of this type of range has an immediate effect upon the market weights and the market grades of livestock.

There is probably some preference, particularly by cattle, for the mid-grasses such as the wheatgrasses compared with the short sod-forming grasses, and as a consequence the mid-grasses receive the heaviest use on an overgrazed Plains range. The result is that the grasses of a heavily grazed Great Plains range are likely to be predominantly the short sod-forming grasses which, while they are the better soil protectors, do not produce as high a volume of forage as a range which is a mixture of mid-grasses and short grasses. This is to say that the ability of this type of range to produce volume of forage and animal weights can be very materially lowered by heavy use without breaking the plant cover or disturbing the soil.

A not uncommon situation, particularly in the central and southern parts of the Plains, is a heavily used range that is a pure stand of the short grasses, the grammas and the true buffalo grass, that have formed a dense sod. Such a range produces a low volume of forage compared with its potentiality, and the livestock that use it are generally below standard in their market weights at the close of the grazing season in the fall of the year. It may not always be true that there would be a quick restoration of the mid-grasses—the higher volume-producing grasses—or that there would be a rapid recovery in the vigor of the short grasses under lighter use in these situations; or that the short grasses will not eventually break under heavy use. But the range livestock studies of the Plains have pretty well established the conclusion that even on such heavily grazed range it is good immediate production economics to carry only the number of animals that will leave such a margin of forage above the livestock maintenance requirements as will give good weights of market animals; also that such a level of range use will maintain the grass stand and soil.

In contrast with the Great Plains ranges, the range forage of western mountain range lands is generally a mixture of the bunchgrasses and the browse plants. There is a general preference by cattle for the bunchgrasses, and these bunchgrasses are better soil protectors than the browse plants and the weeds and other annuals. But there are good indications from experience and observations over a considerable period of time that cattle numbers and weights can be maintained on the browse and other forage plants of mountain ranges for quite a long time after the bunch-

grasses have been very much depleted or destroyed, and with resulting progressive soil deterioration. Associated with this ecological problem is the management problem of securing distribution of use by livestock on rough mountain ranges. This is especially true for cattle. The upland water courses and the more accessible open slopes can be very heavily used without any material lowering of animal production, because of the availability of a second order of preference both as to type of forage and as to adjacent range locations. This overuse may not affect any large percentage of a mountain range at any one time, but overgrazed "sore spots" equal to only 10 per cent of a mountain range may be critical from the watershed standpoint, and the progressive destruction of preferred forage species and of favored range locations must eventually reach a stage where animal production will suffer. The stage of forage and soil depletion on a mountain range that affects livestock production may not be reached, however, before other resource values, such as watersheds, have been sacrificed; and these other values may be five, twenty, or 100 times as great as the range values which have been lost. The indications are that the mountain lands of the West that lie above 7,000 feet elevation yield about 85 per cent of the water used for irrigation. These high-water yield mountain lands sustain an investment in irrigated agriculture equivalent, as an over-all average, to about \$30 an acre for the watershed lands. This compares with a capital value of about \$2 an acre for these mountain lands for grazing.

Another contrast in the ranch production economics of range land conservation for the Great Plains and for the ranges of the western mountains is that the mountain, foothill, valley, and desert ranges of the Rocky Mountain country fit into a seasonal use pattern. Because of this it may be possible to graze one seasonal range destructively and still secure good market weights by using a companionate seasonal range under better management. An illustration of this is that of a spring and fall foothill range from which the original bunchgrasses have disappeared due to heavy use, and which now provides a high volume of growth in the early spring months of weeds, cheatgrass, and other annual grasses. This annual vegetation may not be holding the soil but still affording a satisfactory spring sheep range as long as any topsoil remains. Meanwhile the sheep can go onto good summer range and produce a high crop of range-fat lambs.

The spring and fall sheep ranges of the Snake River Valley of Idaho are a good example of this. The lower parts of the valley now have a heavy cover of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). The remnants of grass stands indicate these





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arid ranges (average annual precipitation is about ten inches) formerly supported a stand of bunchgrasses, principally *Agropyron spicatum* and *Poa secunda*, with a considerably lower density of sagebrush than now prevails. Range sheep operations, which have been important in this valley since the 1890's, formerly grazed these ranges through the winter, lambled on the range in April and May, and trailed to the mountain range for summer grazing.

These sheep operations are now on an entirely different economy due to the ecological changes that have occurred. The sheep are now maintained for four months during the winter on hay purchased from the irrigated farms. The ewes are lambled early in sheds and moved onto the cheatgrass as soon as growth is started, which is generally the latter part of March. As the cheatgrass dries on these lower ranges, the sheep are moved to the higher elevation lands adjacent to the summer range. These intermediate lands still support a considerable growth of the original cover types.

An economic analysis of historical and present-day sheep ranch records in this area indicates that the present operations support as high an economy, perhaps higher, than the type of operations that prevailed before the cheatgrass took over. There is the question, however, whether the cheatgrass will maintain the soil and also whether the cheat is not

moving into the higher elevations so that it may also take over the essential intermediate range now used between the time the cheatgrass dries and the time the summer range is available.

In contrast with the Snake River plains spring and fall sheep ranges where heavy use has resulted in an ecological change that at least for the present has apparently not resulted in a lowering of the livestock production economy, the heavy use of the winter sheep ranges of western Utah and eastern Nevada has resulted in a lowering of the economy of the range operations.

The investigative work of the range experiment station at Milford, Utah, is designed to study the effect of different intensities of grazing of these desert winter ranges upon sheep production. These ranges are composed principally of desert shrubs with some mixture of grasses. Two range bands of sheep alternate each year between the experimental range and the outside heavily used range of the public lands grazing district. The results that affect the income of these operations are the one-pound difference in fleece weights, the 3 to 5 per cent difference in ewe death losses, and the cost of range supplements used on the heavily grazed range. No supplements are required on the experimental range. The weight of the ewes on the experimental range has averaged five to ten pounds greater than that on the outside heavily used range at the


close of the winter grazing season, but this is not reflected in any appreciable difference in the lamb weight, which is made on another seasonal range. The experimental range responded to management rather quickly, and the indications are that these results can be obtained within two or three years after the intensity of use of this range is lowered by approximately one-third. An economic analysis of the preliminary results of this experimental range work indicates that the operator's net income per ewe is increased by about 50 cents which, as an average, means an increase of about two-thirds in the net income for this type of range sheep operation.

#### Conservation Economics and Land Control

These economic interpretations of range research and ranch management work for the Great Plains and for some of the western desert ranges are so convincing, as to the ranch income values of a lower intensity of grazing than has commonly been practiced, that one must try to define and understand the reasons why heavy intensities have so generally prevailed in the use of range lands.

The idea is frequently advanced—in fact it has almost become axiomatic—that heavy land taxes, high land rental charges, and inflated capital values and loans for land make it necessary for ranch operators to carry maximum livestock numbers in order to meet their land overhead. This proposition will not

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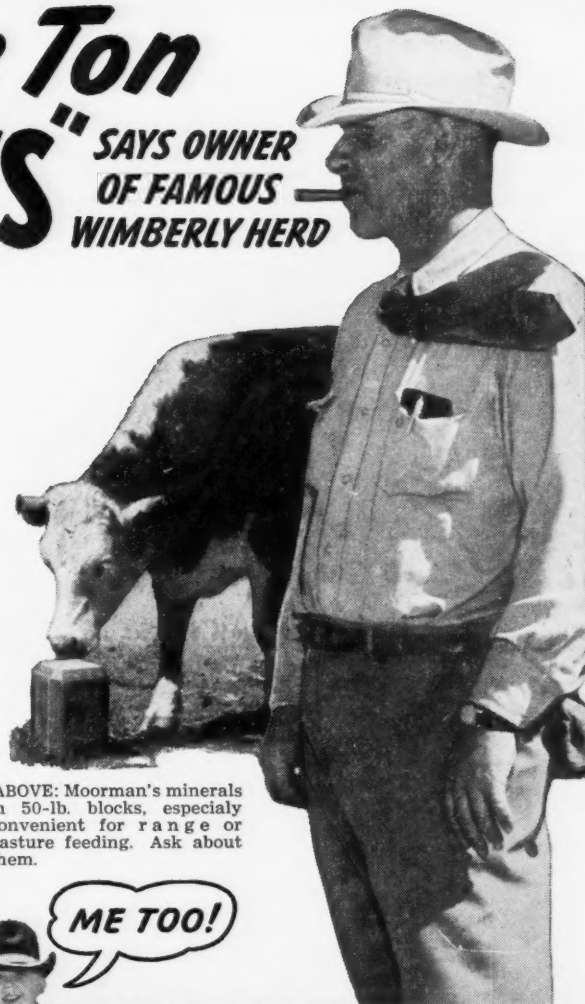
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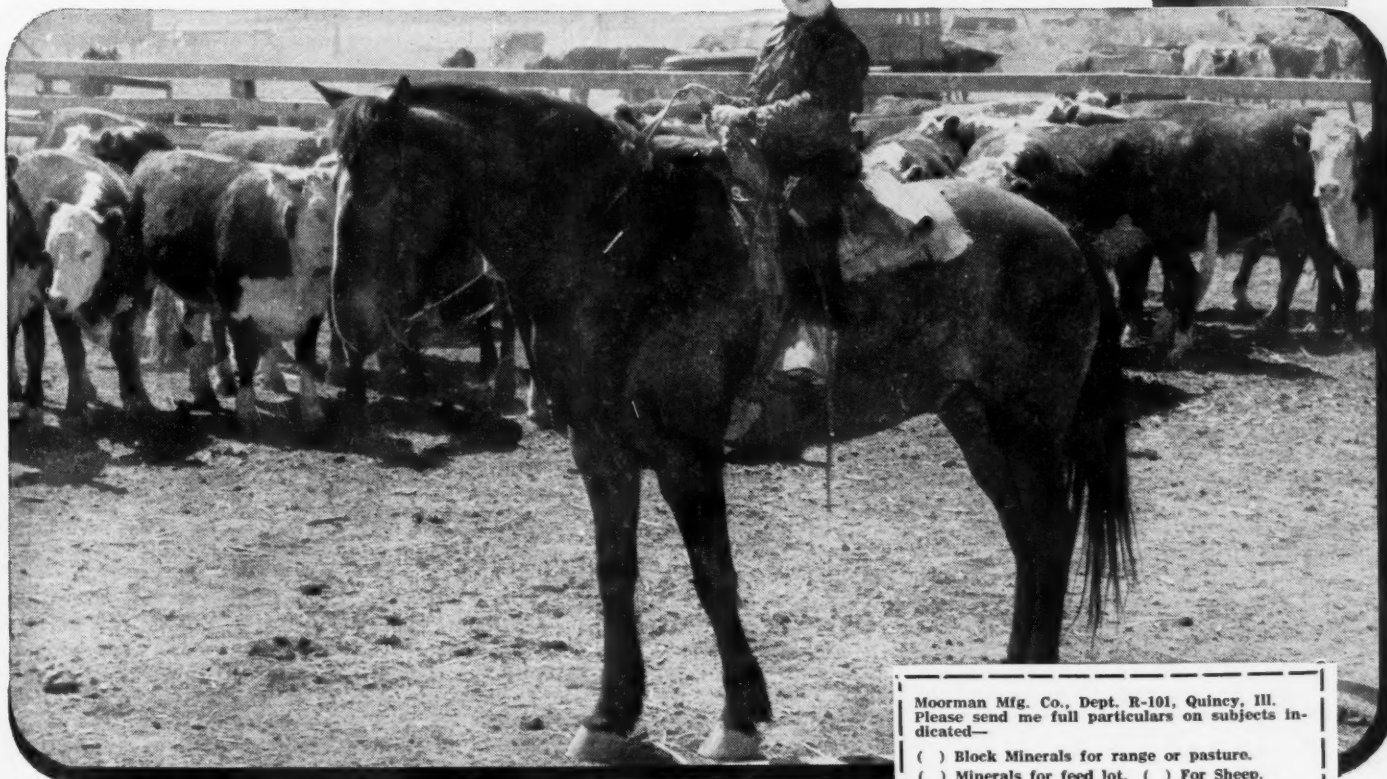
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stand economic analysis in the situations, such as in the Plains, where there is an optimum relationship between grazing intensity and livestock market weights. An uneconomic fixed cost for land may be the primary cause for a net operating loss for a livestock ranch, but the loss will be increased rather than decreased by carrying a number of livestock that will have an adverse effect upon the weights of animals marketed.

The significant effect of uneconomic range land taxes, leases, and capital values is that they force range land into an uncontrolled status, and it is then impossible for the individual operator to apply any economic calculations based upon management. A range that lapses into an uncontrolled status is almost certain to be overused and the livestock weights to be substandard, but the operator may be able to wash out enough of his land overhead to improve his net income position. Meanwhile society is losing a resource, and the individual is losing the potential income from a managed resource priced at its economic value.

The lack of adequate tenure and control of range land is unquestionably the main obstacle in the way of conservation management of range land through the economic incentives of the individual operator. The illustration cited of how the Utah west desert sheep operators might double their net income applies only to a controlled range, where management is possible. This range does not lend itself to private ownership and management, and as a consequence had no control prior to administration under the Taylor act.

Due to the nature of the desert forage growth of this range, public administration must seek to work out large scale area management which permits a good deal of flexibility and movement of livestock in the use of land management units. Until these land control and management requirements are developed, there is no ranch operator management economics approach to the conservation of this land.

The largest acreage of uncontrolled grazing land in the West is now in the Great Plains. Recent estimates indicate that about one-third of the land of the northern Great Plains—that is, eastern Montana and Wyoming and western North and South Dakota—can be classed as uncontrolled range. This is principally tax default land and unleased state land, railroad and other corporate land, and individual ownership.

The adequate methods and devices to put this land under control must be developed before management economics can be applied to it. The measure that will bring this land under management most rapidly are, first, a scientific approach to the classification and appraisal of grazing lands for taxation purposes in order to strengthen the incentive to private ownership and management of grazing lands. Western ranch economic

studies show that the economic rental value of western grazing land that will allow the ranch operator wages and interest return on livestock investment varies from 10 cents to 30 cents a cow month of carrying capacity, depending upon the quality of the range; and that present grazing land taxes are now absorbing 50 to 100 per cent of this economic rental value of the land. The incentive to private ownership would be strengthened if the land tax bore a definite relationship to the economic rental value of the land and absorbed not in excess of one-third of that rental value.

A grazing land tax of a flat 10 cents per cow month of carrying capacity would be a very great improvement over the present western range land tax, which averages about 20 cents per cow month, but which bears little or no relationship to the carrying capacity of the land. Still better than such a flat rate tax per cow month of land grazing capacity would be a tax that varied from 5 cents to 15 cents per cow month, depending upon the quality of the range. There are situations in western range communities where an economic and scientifically equalized range land tax charge such as this would actually yield more tax revenue than the present levy which is twice or three times that high. But the amount of tax revenue that might be sacrificed in such a tax adjustment is a minor social issue compared with the wealth and income that may be lost when an uneconomic land tax becomes an important factor in causing land to change from a managed use to an uncontrolled status.

Another important approach to the placing of the uncontrolled range land of the Plains under management is a re-orientation of the functions of the state government in the management of land. A streamlined state office of land management with adequate accompanying legislation could work effectively with county government in the handling of tax reversion lands. These lands could be classified as to whether they are to be resold, leased to individual operators or to co-operative grazing associations, or handled on a co-operative basis in connection with federal public land administration. This office could also be enabled to make an effective contribution to the successful operation of co-operative grazing associations. These associations have a triple function of effecting better land tenure, allotting the use of range to operators, and working out area land management plans. A central state leadership can give very valuable assistance in all three of these functions, but more particularly on the applied science phases of the last one.

A third necessary approach to better control of range lands for management is the use of economic standards of rental values based upon carrying capacity and quality of range, and upon the market prices of livestock. It is hardly necessary to point out that the lack of

this approach for fixing grazing land rental charges has been an important reason why non-operator-owned range lands have alternated between a controlled and an uncontrolled status.

Western ranch and range studies show that, when ranch prices are \$6 to \$7 a cwt. for beef and lambs and 25 cents a pound for wool, the economic rental value of a cow month of grazing is around 30 cents for the better grades of land but only about one-third of this amount per cow month for lower quality grazing. When livestock market prices are higher than the averages given above, the economic rental value of range land rises in more than a direct ratio to the rise in livestock market prices, and of course the converse is true for low prices. The scientific techniques are now fairly well developed for an appraisal of the economic rental value of different types of range lands under varying livestock market price situations. The use of these techniques can add a great deal to the stability of control of lands that are operated under lease. This is particularly true for the lower grade lands since there is a general tendency to price lands on an average, and it is also the case for all grades of land when livestock market prices are low because of the tendency of lease rates to be based upon averages for livestock market prices.

It should be emphasized, however, that the use of the economic rental value approach for pricing leased lands cannot well be applied to private lands unless there is a comparable approach on land taxes that would base the land tax upon the economic rental value of the land. This approach, if carried to its logical conclusion, would also fluctuate the land tax in some relationship with the changing economic rental value of the land under varying livestock market prices. There is no tax adjustment obstacle in applying this approach to the appraisal and valuation of state- and county-owned lands for grazing lease, however, and it would result in improved land control, increased lease revenues, and more equitable cost to the users.

#### **Basis for Calculation Inadequate for Mountain Range**

The mountain range lands of the West are as a general rule under stable tenure and control, and this is not an obstacle in their economic management and conservation. But there is a real question as to how well ranch management economics apply to the conservation of these lands.

Let us emphasize again that the statements made in this paper regarding the economic aspect of the conservation of western mountain range lands are based largely upon empirical grounds, and necessarily so, due to the lack of investigative information on the response of animal production to different intensities of use of mountain ranges. If the future



work of scientific investigations does show that the conservation of western mountain range lands cannot be approached through a demonstrational and informational program on the economics of management for the individual ranch operator, then the needs and objectives of such conservation are in the realm of social policies and programs for land management, such as public ownership and management or measures for the regulation of private ownership and management, rather than the production economics calculations of the individual user. We cannot expect the ranch operator to lower the intensity of grazing on range lands as a conservation measure if that would mean any material sacrifice of income, but it may be of importance to society to avoid the probability of eventual loss of range livestock production values and to avoid losses to downstream irrigation agriculture.

In summarizing, let us re-emphasize the following points:

1. Range and ranch investigative work shows that the conservation of controlled range land in the Great Plains can be achieved through the economics of ranch management, and the information is available for educational and demonstrational work on this.

2. There are important differences in the ecology of use and in the management of western mountain range lands compared with Great Plains range lands, and there is a question regarding the ex-

tent and degree to which the Great Plains stock ranch management economics approach to land conservation is applicable to the conservation of mountain range land.

3. The use of a scientific approach on the economics of land overhead cost is a primary need in improving the tenure and control of range lands in the Plains, and this adequate tenure and control of range are a prerequisite to the management economics approach to conservation.

4. The scientific approach on the economics of land overhead cost has been developed, but it will require changes in legislation and administrative procedures to make this effective.

5. To the extent that decreasing the animal months of use of mountain range as a necessary conservation measure does not result in better weights and quality for market animals, such an adjustment must be made through some form of public regulation, with means for compensating the individual user for the resulting sacrifice in ranch income.

## STOCKMEN DISCUSS LABOR PROBLEMS

DELEGATES OF FIVE LIVESTOCK groups, meeting at Chadron, Nebraska, on September 29, issued an appeal for action to stop the loss of vital man-

power on ranches. "A crisis is at hand. If the nation wants beef, mutton, and wool, the military branch must not take more of the men who are now doing the work in this essential industry."

Represented at the meeting were the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, Sandhill Feeder Cattle Producers' Association, South Dakota Stock Growers' Association, Western South Dakota Wool Growers' Association, and South Dakota Live Stock Commission.

Recommendations of the group—

1. Approved the principles of the selective service draft which classifies men according to their value in essential industries and insisted that meat and wool production is essential.

2. Approved "freezing" of essential workers on ranches and farms by giving them the choice between agriculture or military service, as recommended by Selective Service Head Lewis B. Hershey "if the proper policy-making agency deems advisable," and urging authorization by such agency.

3. Opposed voluntary enlistment as "working to the detriment of the selective draft."

4. Urged that explicit instruction be given draft boards with reference to essential farm and ranch labor.

5. Urged recognition of the statement by Colonel Francis V. Keesling that "producing beef, pork, butter, and eggs is just as patriotic and important as building a ship or firing a gun."

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6. Requested a survey "showing the existing and the necessary man power on all farms and ranches" and that in the meantime the draft boards observe "all the more closely the provision of the Selective Service Act with reference to the classification of men in the essential industry, agriculture."

In many cases, the stockmen said, the taking of men has meant abandonment of herds and ranches and a very large reduction in numbers of livestock.

A second important matter discussed by the livestock men dealt with weather reports. John A. Riley, director of the Weather Bureau's regional office at Kansas City, Missouri, told the delegates that stockmen would continue to receive warnings of severe storms, issued by the Weather Bureau through radio stations.

H. H. Selleck, secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, arranged the meeting.

## ASSOCIATION NOTES

### ARIZONA CALF SALES

Calves sold at the tenth annual "give-a-calf" sale of the Yavapi County Cattle Growers at the Roy Hays ranch at People's Valley, Arizona, brought \$51.50 a head, bid in by Ray Cowden, Phoenix. From proceeds of the sale the Yavapai County Cattle Growers will give their tenth \$1,000 check to the American National Live Stock Association. . . . Forty-six dollars a head was paid for calves sold at the Northern Arizona Cattle Growers' Association recent annual calf sale, from which \$650 was paid the National. A like or greater amount has been paid each year for the past eight

### WYOMING-MONTANA MEETING

Members of the Wyoming-Montana Livestock Protective Association, meeting at Sheridan, Wyoming, in September, expressed the view that ceilings on livestock should be accepted but that "the strongest pressure should be exerted to make it recognized that ceilings on agricultural products will not be in the least effective unless the President's promise to control labor is made fully effective at the same time."

### NEW MEXICO RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by the executive committee of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association meeting in Albuquerque on September 30 asked that all agricultural labor be frozen; asked that all special grazing districts in New Mexico be made into regular grazing districts "because ranch operators there apparently are being deprived of the benefits enjoyed in regular districts;" favored Albuquerque as a location for the Zoological Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry; urged full consideration by federal authorities of the tire, gasoline, and oil needs of the livestock industry.

### BOULDER ASSOCIATION MEETING

In a resolution passed by the Boulder Live Stock Association at a recent meeting at Boulder, Colorado, objection to the Argentine sanitary convention was made on the ground of "lack of confidence in Washington to protect the interests of livestock" and the great danger of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in this country. The resolution also opposed "the opening of our country to outside products that we raise here," pledged solid backing of "every legitimate effort to win the

war," and opposed "ceiling prices and other obstructions to their business until more regulation is placed upon labor unions."

### CALIFORNIA GROUPS MEET

Major agricultural associations in California represented at a meeting in San Francisco on September 10 adopted a resolution favoring extension of the Selective Service System to civilian man power engaged in essential work, "so that induction will apply not only to military service but also to essential supplies." . . . The board of directors of the California Cattlemen's Association on the same day favored enactment of legislation placing ceilings on agricultural products on the basis of parity or prices on or about September 1 and providing for a floor under such prices. It was asked that provision for wage ceilings—rates of January 1, 1941, plus justified increases—be established.

### CRITICAL OCCUPATIONS

Agriculture is certified as an activity essential to the support of the war effort and the occupations of the cowpuncher, farm machinery operator, farm operator, foreman, and generally skilled farm hand, and sheep herdsman are critical occupations, according to announcement by Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey. Other critical occupations in the group of twenty-nine classifications listed under agriculture include farm mechanics and maintenance mechanics. Draft boards were instructed to give consideration in these skills and their replacement. . . . Fifteen senators in early October appealed for a temporary emergency "freeze" on workers on livestock and dairy farms until a general man power control program is worked out.

## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER—

- 8-11—Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- 9-10—Nevada State Cattle Ass'n, convention, Elko.
- 17—Platte Valley Hereford auction, North Platte, Neb.
- 19-21—Hearings on public land administration, Glenwood Springs, Colo.
- 20—Oklahoma Live Stock Growers' Ass'n convention, Tulsa, Okla.

### DECEMBER—

- 2-5—Chicago Stock Yards Fat Stock and Carlot Competition, Chicago.
- 11-12—California Cattlemen's Ass'n convention, San Francisco.

### JANUARY—

- 15-16—American National Live Stock Ass'n "streamlined business convention," Denver, Colo.
- 16-23—National Western Stock Show, Denver.
- 18—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n meeting, Denver.

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SOURCE: U.S. OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION



## AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Vol. XXIV November 1942 No. 6

### CALL FOR CONVENTION

*To Members of the American National Live Stock Association, Affiliated Associations and Organizations, and Stockmen Generally:*

Call is hereby issued for the forty-sixth annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association, to be held on January 15 and 16, 1943, in Denver, Colorado, with headquarters at the Shirley-Savoy Hotel.

\* \* \*

AS ANNOUNCED LAST MONTH, the executive committee, by a practically unanimous vote, indicated its approval of meeting in Denver instead of at Phoenix as originally scheduled. The meeting will be a streamlined business affair with no entertainment and little, if any, formal program but with so many important matters affecting the industry, due to the prevailing emergency, that it is highly desirable that we should have representative delegations from every section of our territory.

Things are moving so rapidly these days that it is impossible now to foretell what problems may be the most pressing when convention time rolls around. We wish, however, to call attention to some of the pending problems of utmost importance which may or may not be solved then.

#### Joint Livestock Committee

Early in July your president and secretary co-operated in the formation of a joint livestock committee. Its formation was hastened by the activities of an emergency committee formed by certain independent packers whose first objective was the imposition of ceilings on live animals. This joint committee has

devoted itself particularly to the matter of price ceilings but has likewise been active with relation to the matter of meat rationing, meat supplies, and other related problems. It is the hope that this committee, which includes representatives from all the important national livestock organizations, will hold together for the duration. Certainly, with this committee functioning, the livestock industry has been better represented in Washington since July 1 than ever before in history.

#### Price Ceilings

Your officers, working largely through the joint committee referred to above, have been very active in recent weeks in matters pertaining to price ceilings. Numerous conferences have been held with officials of the OPA and the Department of Agriculture. Many suggestions have been made as to ways in which the meat price ceilings could be made more equitable—all to the end of preventing any necessity for the imposition of ceilings on live animals. To this the joint committee has registered all-out opposition. We have assurances from OPA that further conferences will be held before any move is made in this direction.

#### Meat Rationing

An anomalous situation has developed with regard to beef supplies. It might be called a shortage in the midst of plenty. With the largest number of cattle ever reported in this country and with slaughter at an all-time peak, the demand, including the increasing amounts purchased for our armed forces and our allies, exceeds the available supply. There has been much loose talk of meatless days and, regrettably, a move or two made in that direction. In conferring with various officials, we have taken the position that we would prefer meat rationing to meatless days. The limitation order restricting packers' sales for civilian use is intended to bring about better distribution of the available supply; but, if this does not do the job sufficiently well, consumer rationing will be the next step. If that time comes, then there will be no reason whatsoever for meatless days. Each individual will regulate his own meat consumption in accordance with the rules. We shall keep in close touch with the entire matter.

#### Production and Marketing Goals

Recently Secretary Wickard has informally stressed the need of greater production of many agricultural products for next year. So far there has not been any concrete program submitted to the livestock industry. With sharply increased slaughter, due to shortage of labor, lighter feeding operations, etc., it does not appear that production can be increased next year, although marketing might temporarily increase. However, the industry will do all in its power to co-operate, once a definite goal is set and the machinery, manpower, etc., pro-

### SPECIAL NOTICE

Headquarters for the American National Live Stock Association business convention, to be held January 15-16 in Denver, Colorado, will be the Shirley-Savoy Hotel.

Ike Walton, of the Shirley-Savoy, is chairman of the housing committee and will handle all reservations for the convention. Naturally the headquarters hotel will be filled first, but if you desire to stay at any other hotel you should so specify. Otherwise you will be placed at the Shirley-Savoy until its capacity is reached, and then you will be placed at other good hotels in Denver.

It is essential in making your reservations that you advise Mr. Walton not only of your time of arrival but also time of departure. The hotels in Denver are pretty well filled with army people, and you must co-operate with the hotels in the matter of arrival time and departure time in order to avoid inconvenience to yourself. Hotel room rates are now under ceiling prices as issued by OPA order.

The American National has purposely placed its business convention at the week-end before the Denver stock show, which will give you opportunity to take in the show. There will be many reservations for the Denver show itself. This makes it imperative that you make your reservation early and specify arrival and departure time.

vided, to make its fulfillment possible. It is highly important that a program should be announced at an early date. Already it appears that much beef tonnage for the coming winter season has been lost because of uncertainty as to price ceilings, shortage of labor, inadequate price spread between grades, with its inevitable tendency to shorter feeds, and the purchase by packers of a great majority of two-way cattle, many of which ordinarily go to the feed-lots for a short feed.

#### Man Power

At this writing this problem perhaps is the most acute one facing the industry. It has been gradually developing throughout the summer. We first took official notice of the matter in April when a joint committee of the American National and the National Wool Growers' Association appeared in Washington for conferences with representatives of the Selective Service Administration. Since then representatives of that organization have, at our request, appeared at several western livestock meetings, and our new joint livestock committee has in recent weeks conferred on this problem with Administrator McNutt of the War Manpower Commission and with

other officials of the administration both in Selective Service and in the Department of Agriculture. Legislation to stabilize labor conditions is now before both houses of congress. In the meantime, the Selective Service officials appear to be giving greater consideration to the needs of agriculture. The wave of farm and livestock sales all over the country, unprecedented at this time of the year, suddenly has centered attention on the fact that the production of agricultural products of all kinds, including livestock, will be seriously hampered next year unless there is a decided revision of policy in the meantime.

#### Priorities

We have kept in close touch with Washington in the matter of securing needed priorities for such articles as windmills, well supplies, pipe, wire, and horseshoes. The agricultural war relations division of the Department of Agriculture has been very co-operative and has moved quickly to secure relief upon urgent request. In many cases it has developed that shortages are largely due to poor distribution of available supplies. The convention will provide an opportunity to discuss any shortages developing to which attention should be called.

#### Rubber and Gas

Throughout the summer, as the rubber situation got more acute, we have made contacts with OPA in order to present the problem of the rancher and to get as favorable consideration as possible of his needs. In view of the critical situation, we feel that we have been fairly treated throughout. Now that gasoline is to be rationed, largely as a tire conservation measure, we have again contacted OPA officials and some of our congressional friends in Washington. Assurances have been given us that the problems peculiar to the West, because of the larger distances involved, will be given due recognition under the gasoline rationing plan.

#### ODT Orders

Our traffic office at Phoenix and the Denver office have co-operated to secure modification of many orders issued by ODT relative to both railroad and truck transportation of livestock. The common procedure is to issue rather drastic regulations and then to modify them as various groups make out strong cases of the burdens which would be imposed upon them by the regulations. Some of the most objectionable ones have been postponed several times and finally eliminated entirely so far as application to livestock is concerned.

The above and other emergency problems will occupy the center of the stage at the convention. Come and do your share in helping to solve them.

Yours for a successful wartime convention,

F. E. MOLLIN, Executive Secretary.  
Denver, Colorado,  
October 25, 1942.


## MAN POWER AND PRODUCTION

**WE HAVE RECENTLY CALLED AT-**tention editorially to the acute labor situation which has been in the making for the past six months. It might be said that a crisis has now been reached. Great as are our resources, suddenly we are face to face with the realization that the task of at once feeding the world, being the arsenal for democracy, and raising an army of 13,000,000 men, which is the peak figure referred to occasionally by authorities at Washington, is just a little more than we can bite off in one piece. Somewhere along the line policies have got to be adjusted to the realities of the situation.

One of the first adjustments necessary is to recognize that the production of food is fully as important as the production of munitions of war. So far it hasn't been accorded that recognition. Secretary Wickard has announced that it is desirable to increase production of many agricultural products next year even over the record production of this year. Without knowing any of the inner

facts about the need for continuing in the role of arsenal for democracy, we will assume that no reduction should be contemplated there. If then we are to increase our production of food and fulfill the current program for the production of munitions of war, it would seem that the only place we can materially cut down the ambitious program originally mapped out would be in the size of the potential army. Many have all along contended that our greatest contribution to the war effort would be in the production of food and munitions. That the authorities recognize the need for revision of policy may be indicated in the recent announcement that we are planning an army of 7,500,000 men for 1943. That does not necessarily mean that we may not later expand it, but it would seem to indicate a more conservative trend.

Few perhaps have realized the real situation that has developed with regard to agricultural production. It is true that the greatest loss of man power from the farms and ranches has been to the war plants. But it is likewise true that the loss which has hurt the most has been the drafting of the more essential men—those who by inclination would



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have stayed on their posts on the theory that their greatest contribution to the war effort was right there. Many farmers and ranchers have lost to the draft sons or long-time employees, thoroughly familiar with their property and style of operation, and they cannot be replaced by nondescript help recruited from less essential business, or by boys and girls, or women, valuable as their services will be for the long pull.

What has really focused attention on this situation is the unprecedented volume of farm and livestock sales all over the country. Seldom are such sales held at this time of the year. Many announcements are prefaced with the statement that the owner is going into the service. In other cases the sale is induced by the loss of key men, and the owner, perhaps well along in years, is not able to carry on.

It seems certain that agricultural production cannot be increased as Secretary Wickard desires if present conditions are allowed to continue. Right now married men, farm and ranch operators, though without children, are being drafted. They should be granted occupational deferment. This should be done immediately so that we will not make the mistake that England made—spend thousands of dollars in training soldiers and then have to put them back on the farms upon realization that increased production of food is essential to winning the war. Recently in our own country, men inducted into the army have been returned to the mines to step up the production of critical war materials.

The recent move to control wages comes too late to be of any great help so far as the farm and ranch picture is concerned. Freezing at present levels still makes it impossible for agriculture to compete with the many war projects which are paying jack-knife carpenters in the neighborhood of \$500 per month and other workers in proportion. Perhaps when building projects are over, the competition will not be so keen; but, with agricultural prices frozen at present levels, the industry still will be seriously handicapped in this regard. It was for this reason that agriculture, united more than it has ever been in this country, pressed hard for the adoption of the Thomas-Hatch amendment to the price control bill, which would have included agricultural labor in the formula for determining base parity prices. Adoption of that amendment would have been a step in the direction of giving agriculture a reasonable chance to fulfill its full share of the war program. The compromise finally adopted gives the President authority to recognize the cost of agricultural labor and the need of production in determining levels at which ceilings will be applied. And, undoubtedly, use will have to be made of this authority, if the desired production is to be secured in this emergency. Some have jumped to the conclusion that agriculture was merely being selfish and taking ad-

vantage of the war to try to improve its relative position, but those who know the difficulties under which agriculture has produced this year the greatest crop in all its history will take a broader view of the matter.

It goes without saying that agriculture next year will produce to the full limit of its ability; but, if it is going to come anywhere near producing the food that will be required, it must have the man power and the machinery to do the job. There will be no argument about forty-hour weeks, or time and a half, or double time. Man power, motor power, and horse power will deliver the best that is in them. The result will depend to a large degree upon policies that are in formation now.

### WHY MEATLESS DAYS?

THERE OUGHT TO BE MORE CON- sideration given to what the government is doing and intends to do about our large meat supply by those suggesting meatless days as a cure-all in the meat-supply situation. Rationing to civilians through the packers is already in operation. Voluntary restriction to two and a half pounds weekly has been asked of the consuming public. Instructions on how to carry out the share-the-meat program in eating houses have been issued. Government experts have explained that production of meat is at an all-time high and that there is an abundance of supplements for the public—poultry and substitutes such as cheese and beans—but nevertheless

civilians will have a little less meat than last year.

The country produced 20,000,000,000 pounds of meat last year; that is, from July 1, 1941, to June 30, 1942. This year it is producing 24,000,000,000 pounds. Our allies and our armed forces must have about 6,000,000,000 pounds of this meat, however. This will leave 18,000,000,000 pounds this year for civilian use. This means an average of two and a half pounds per person per week, which is about the same amount of meat used in the 1931-40 period.

That the situation is anything but critical is shown in these figures. Nor is it in such a state that further abstinence even to the extent of a meatless day a week in New York City, as recently asked by Mayor LaGuardia, is necessary. Suppose every mayor sets a meatless day. Wouldn't that throw the whole orderly government distribution scheme out of gear?

The government's plan goes on to provide for rationing of meat as soon as the machinery for it can be got running. It may come soon. Certainly, with this on the way, there is no point in setting a meatless day here and one there. Those who do suggest them or think they should might well consider the hangover from meatless days that persisted for two decades after World War No. 1 to the great damage of an important American industry. Such needless damage will be avoided and a more orderly apportionment of meat will be affected by adhering to the government's plan of distribution.



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# WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON NOTES

### CONTROL

The new law of the land "to aid in preventing inflation" came into effect in early October after sharp debate on the question of farm labor. At issue was the question of the inclusion of costs of farm labor in calculating parities to be used in arriving at ceiling prices. Practically every important agricultural and livestock organization in the country approved such a plan. It was not adopted, but a compromise provision did give direction to the President "that in fixing price maximums . . . adequate weight should be given to farm labor." Some farm leaders contend that the President will find it essential to take

cognizance of this provision if the nation is to get the food it will require. The law places maximum prices at (1) parity, or (2) the highest price received between January 1 and September 15, 1942, whichever is higher. But further provision in the law permits the President to exceed or perhaps go below these limitations. The new legislation provides for a continuation of Commodity Credit Corporation loans to protect farmers against post-war collapse for a two-year period.

### SETS FARM PRICES AND WAGES

Armed with the provisions of this law, President Roosevelt ordered stabilization of farm prices "so far as practicable on the basis of levels which

existed on September 15" and ordered that deduction be made of farm benefits and subsidies when figuring parity. He also approved a loan rate on 1942 wheat and corn at 85 per cent of parity, to hold meat prices from further increase. The rate on other crops was allowed to rise to 90 per cent, as the new law directs in its "floor" provision.

### SHARE-THE-MEAT PROGRAM

Steps to start the wartime share-the-meat program functioning were taken in late September when the Food Requirements Committee of the WPB limited packer deliveries of meat for the final quarter of 1942 to 80 per cent of the beef and veal they delivered during the final quarter of 1941. Lamb and mutton deliveries were limited to 95 per cent and pork to 75 per cent. Canned meat, scrapple, souse and similar products, and liver, hearts, and kidneys are not restricted. The committee further asked civilian adults voluntarily to hold consumption to two and one-half pounds per person per week and suggested that children under six be given three-fourths of a pound and youngsters under twelve, one and one-half pounds.

### MEAT RATIONING

Later on meat may be added to the list of things rationed, which now include sugar, automobiles, tires, fuel oil, gasoline, rubber boots and rubber work shoes, typewriters, bicycles, and farm machinery. Three methods of meat rationing have been talked about in various quarters: First, by the pound, to be administered much the same as sugar rationing. The purchaser would get a specified number of pounds of each kind of meat. Second, on a dollar basis, which would limit the number of dollars an individual could spend for meat. Consumers in some areas might be allowed to spend more dollars for meat than consumers in other areas. Third, by the point system, under which the various kinds of meat would be assigned a different number of points. The purchaser could spend his points for the meat of his choosing, but the value in points would, for example, be: beef ten points and pork and lamb eight points each per pound. His card of points would allow him less meat if he purchased beef than if he bought pork or lamb.

### RESTAURANTS ASKED TO HELP IN SHARE-THE-MEAT PROGRAM

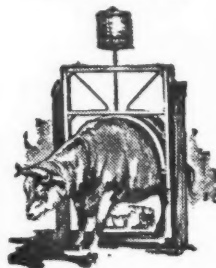
Rules for a national voluntary share-the-meat program for public eating houses have been announced by the ODT. The establishments are requested to (1) maintain standard sizes of meat portions at present prices, except where prices of meat increase; (2) make available half portions at reduced prices; (3) display on table cards, menus, etc., a summary of the share-the-meat pro-

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gram, soliciting co-operation of the patron in staying within his share; (4) indicate to patrons the approximate uncooked weight of restricted meat to help eaters stay within their individual shares; (5) reduce the number of dishes of restricted meats served each day; (6) not emphasize dishes of restricted meat on menus; (7) serve only one restricted meat to a customer at one meal; and (8) provide in menus more dishes prepared from variety meats, poultry and fish (where available), and meat alternates.

#### NEW MEAT PRICE CEILINGS

There has been a great deal of anxiety over rumors circulated throughout the country that the OPA was about to revise beef price ceilings in such a way as to force downward adjustment in cattle prices. In response to inquiry in regard to the matter is the following from a telegram from J. K. Galbraith, deputy administrator of the OPA: "Assure you that no action is contemplated on beef prices in immediate future. . . . Also assure you there has been no departure from OPA policy of consulting with producers before issuing permanent ceilings on farm commodities or their products." No definite time is set during which the prevailing price ceilings will remain in effect, but at least it is indicated that producers will be consulted before any drastic changes are made.

#### CEILING ON OTHER FOODS

Revision in ceilings on pork has been made by OPA. Under it, pork loins, for instance, formerly selling at 25½ to 34 cents a pound will be about 27½ cents. The OPA continued the temporary price ceiling on lamb, which establishes ceilings at the highest levels at which slaughterers, wholesalers, and retailers sold in the period July 27 to 31, 1942. The OPA also placed a sixty-day ceiling on virtually all food items, freezing quotations at the highest levels for the period September 28 to October 2. The only foodstuffs remaining exempt from price controls were fresh fruits and vegetables (except potatoes, dry onions, and citrus fruits), fresh fish, and peanuts.

#### MAXIMUMS FOR BEEF

Top prices which packers or wholesalers may charge for choice or Grade AA steers and heifers is 23 cents a pound under a recent order of the OPA. Maximums are also set for lower grades of beef. The ceiling is effective regardless of the fact that a packer's previous individual ceiling may have exceeded this limit. Those who had individual ceilings under the new maximum may not raise their present ceilings. Top maximum prices under the new amendment are: Steers and heifers, Choice or AA, 23 cents; A, 21½ cents; B, 20 cents; C, 18½ cents; Cows, A, 19½ cents; B, 18½ cents; C, 17½ cents; Steers, heifers, and cows, cutter and canner, 16½ cents.

#### NEW FOOD PRODUCTION GOALS

Faced with increased war demands for food, the Department of Agriculture has issued a call for a 10 per cent increase in 1943 spring hog production over the 1942 crop, asking for about 68,000,000 head as compared with the 1942 crop of 62,000,000 head. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, chairman of the Food Requirements Committee, said the achieving of this goal will result in a 1943 slaughter of approximately 13,400,000,000 pounds dressed weight of pork, compared with more than 11,000,000,000 pounds of slaughter in 1942. No goals have as yet been set for cattle, but belief is that the 1943 goal will be higher than 28,000,000 head marketing for 1942. Goals for hogs, dairy products, poultry, and eggs are expected to be raised, it is reported. Goals for all farm crops, except three—wheat, short staple cotton, and commercial vegetables—are set higher than for 1942.

#### GASOLINE RATIONING

Needs of ranchers and farmers will be given consideration in the gasoline regulation to become effective November 22, according to Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, of Wyoming. He was confident that ranchers will be allowed sufficient gasoline for their needs. Senator McCarran's questioning of Price Administrator Leon Henderson at a hearing on gas rationing brought out promise that western spaciousness would be considered. . . . Congressman Harry B. Coffee, of Nebraska, said that no gasoline restriction would be put on farmers and ranchers except on their personal cars. On the latter, the plan operating in the East, he said, would be used, but he thought the officials in charge would take into consideration the greater distances involved in western travel. . . . In contrast to statements made by officials last March that rubber shortage would necessitate cutting the number of passenger cars in use probably to 7,500,000 are statements now that all necessary users may get tires as a result of nation-wide gas rationing, the thirty-five-mile-an-hour limit, and extra-tire turn-ins.

#### PACKERS AGREE TO GOVERNMENT GRADING OF BEEF AND VEAL

Swift and Company, Armour and Company, and Cudahy Packing Company recently entered into an agreement in federal court to turn over grading of all beef and veal to the government. The order provides for the installation of government meat graders in seventy-eight of the firms' plants. It is expected that other packers would sign similar agreements, which have the effect of suspending OPA injunction suits restraining a large number of packers from allegedly "up-grading" veal and beef in an attempt to evade price regulations. Meat grading heretofore has been on a voluntary basis, with a relatively small percentage of meat sold for public consumption bearing the government stamp.



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PICTURES IN THIS ISSUE: Cover, C. J. Belden, Pitchfork Ranch, Pitchfork, Wyo.; p. 7, 8, Weather Bureau; p. 10, mountain scene, Forest Service; p. 18, chart, American Meat Institute.

# TRAFFIC

## TRANSPORTATION

By CALVIN L. and CHAS. E. BLAINE  
*Traffic Managers*

### Southern Livestock Cases

**T**HE INTERSTATE COMMERCE Commission in a voluminous report dated August 11, 1942, briefly summarized, required the rail lines to establish on or before December 1, 1942, upon thirty days' notice to the commission and the general public, and thereafter maintain:

1. Distance scale or rates in cents per 100 pounds for joint-line and single-line application on calves, hogs, sheep, lambs, goats, and kids in double-deck cars, and on cattle, fit for slaughter, between points in the southern territory and from points in the southern territory to points north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers, hereinafter termed official territory; rates on calves and hogs, in single-deck cars to be 115 per cent, and on sheep and goats, in single-deck cars, 125 per cent of the prescribed rates on cattle. The prescribed scale commences at ten miles and terminates with 1,600 miles. The level thereof is intermediate between the scales previously prescribed as maximum reasonable rates in the western group of the United States and in official territory. The application of the prescribed rates is based on the shortest route over which carload traffic can be moved without transfer of lading.

2. Between points within southern territory and from points in that territory to official territory, where specific rates are now maintained within southern territory on stocker and feeder livestock which are less than the rates maintained on livestock fit for slaughter, on stocker and feeder livestock rates 90

per cent of the rates concurrently prescribed on livestock fit for slaughter.

3. From points in the western district to destinations in southern territory and through the latter territory to destinations in official territory by way of the lower Mississippi River crossings, Memphis and south thereof, proportional rates from origins to the east-bank Mississippi River crossings previously prescribed for application in the western district as increased in Ex Parte 123, without any additional charge for crossing the river, plus proportional rates from the east-bank Mississippi River crossings 2 cents lower than the rates prescribed for local application, except that no rate shall be thus reduced below 16 cents.

4. Charges for bedding livestock in southern territory of \$1.10 for single-deck cars and \$1.65 for double-deck cars.

5. Tariff provision authorizing the stopping of livestock to try the market without change of ownership in southern territory and at the Ohio River markets.

6. Tariff provision authorizing stopping livestock, except hogs, for feeding or grazing in transit in southern territory at reasonable charges therefor.

### Unloading Livestock at Destination

The commission in its orders of July 31, 1942, in I. & S. Nos. 5109 and 5117, disposed of said proceedings in favor of the livestock producers.

By schedule filed to become effective February 28, 1942, North Pacific Coast lines sought to establish charge of 3 cents per 100 pounds for unloading livestock at railroad stockyards on both interstate and intrastate traffic in lieu of the existing charge of \$1.38 per car. We filed petition for suspension of the schedule, which petition the commission granted in its original order in No. 5109 on January 24, 1942. Thereupon we

handled the matter with the interested carriers and they agreed to and did voluntarily withdraw the suspended schedule.

However, shortly thereafter the Great Northern Railway, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company, and the Northern Pacific Railway Company each filed schedule to become effective March 20, 1942, establishing like charge on both interstate and intrastate traffic at points served by their lines, Montana and east. Under the increase of 6 per cent authorized in Ex Parte 148, which became effective March 18, 1942, the proposed charge of 3 cents became 3¼ cents. We filed further petition for suspension, which was granted by the commission in its first supplemental order in No. 5109. Soon after that respondents filed petition with the commission for vacation of said order and we filed reply thereto. Respondents' petition was denied by the commission in its further order of April 28, 1942.

Notwithstanding these facts, the three lines named filed further schedules to become effective May 1, 1942, again naming the increased charge of 3¼ cents for unloading livestock at other than public livestock markets on their lines. We filed further petition for suspension thereof, which was granted by the commission in its original order in No. 5117 of April 29, 1942.

For the account of the same lines further schedules were filed to become effective June 3, 1942, naming the same charge. Upon our petition, the commission suspended said schedules in its first supplemental order in No. 5117 on May 12, 1942. Thereafter we addressed the chief traffic executives of each of the three lines named and requested that they voluntarily withdraw the suspended schedules so as to avoid waste of time and expense to all concerned. Upon their refusal to do so, the commission assigned the proceeding for hearing June 29, 1942, at Denver, Colorado. We

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had practically completed the preparation of our evidence on June 24, 1942, when respondents' traffic representatives advised the commission that they would not attempt to justify the suspended schedules but asked that the hearing be cancelled and the proceeding decided upon the pleadings. We interposed no objection to respondents' request, as it was self-evident that the pleadings afforded no justification for the suspended schedules and, hence, the commission would be compelled to find accordingly and dismiss the proceeding, which action was taken by the commission in its order of July 31, 1942.

#### **I. & S. No. 5129, Livestock Loading and Unloading Charges at Chicago**

By schedule filed to become effective July 5, 1942, the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company of Chicago proposed to increase \$3 per car its charges for loading and unloading livestock at its yards. In other words, it proposed increase in its loading and unloading charges to \$4.25 per single-deck car and \$4.50 per double-deck car. Upon protest of the rail lines, livestock producers, and others, the commission suspended the proposed increase to February 5, 1943, and assigned the controversy for hearing July 20, 1942, at Chicago. However, upon application of the respondent, said hearing was postponed to a date to be hereafter fixed.

#### **I. & S. No. 5121, Two for One Rule on Livestock in the South**

By schedule filed to become effective April 25, 1942, the rail lines in southern territory proposed to refuse to furnish double-deck cars for or apply the double-deck rates on livestock from points in the South at which there were no double-deck loading chutes. Upon protests of numerous parties, including the national livestock organizations, the commission suspended the proposed rules until December 25, 1942. Hearing commenced July 20, 1942, at Atlanta, Georgia. In order to keep our expense to the very minimum, we arranged for Lee J. Quasey, of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, to represent our organizations at said hearing. Briefs were filed September 15, 1942. Examiner Claude A. R. Rice in proposed report has recommended that the proposed rule be found not just and reasonable and that it be ordered cancelled.

#### **ODT Orders**

Livestock is now exempted from Order No. 18, which, briefly, prohibits railroads from accepting for shipment, with certain exceptions, any freight cars which are not loaded either to their marked load limit or to their full visible capacity.

Order No. 21, to become effective November 15, 1942, applies to all "commercial motor vehicles," as defined therein for the transportation of property, and defined passenger vehicles used in the

transportation of persons upon the highways, but does not include private passenger automobiles. Previous orders of the ODT generally exempted "any motor truck controlled and operated by any person or persons principally engaged in farming when used in the transportation of agricultural commodities and products thereof from a farm or farms or in the transportation of farm supplies to a farm or farms." However, No. 21 contains no such exemption. Consequently, as we interpret said order, on and after November 15, 1942, before a farmer can use his truck, or trucks, upon the highways, for the transporta-

tion of agricultural commodities and products thereof, or farm supplies, he must secure a certificate of war necessity for and control of his vehicle or vehicles. On September 21, 1942, we thus advised Director Eastman. We pointed out that the farmers and livestock producers have been urged by the government materially to increase their production as a war necessity. Consequently, such interests are essentially engaged in war work. However, the ODT has replied that "The situation as to rubber and other materials makes it essential that all commercial vehicles contribute to the conservation program."

## **Looking Ahead to 1943**

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# MARKETS

## LIVESTOCK MARKETS

By H. W. FRENCH

NEVER BEFORE HAS THERE been such a mixed sentiment in the cattle market, and conditions change without warning and apparently without reason. In the meantime, the general



H. W. French

price structure has improved. Long-fed cattle have been commanding a bigger premium recently and in the bull and cow divisions of the trade good weighty offerings get the call at prices far above those paid for lower grades of light weight. Usually grain-fed steers or heifers

with weight and of choice-to-prime grade are selling at and around the top.

The firmness of the market has been somewhat of a surprise to many, but apparently the demand is broader than the supply. There is a big potential demand from consumers and requirements for the armed forces are not going to be reduced, so that even with rationing for the general public it appears now as though slaughterers will need everything which comes to market. Only excessive supplies will give buyers control, and big receipts are not anticipated for any period of length.

Western range offerings have increased in volume at many markets, although so far range arrivals at Chicago have not been liberal. To date stockers and feeders and beef cows have predominated in the range supply, many coming from Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Grass-fat heifers shipped so far have usually been heavy and light year-

ling kinds in the main suitable only for feeder buyers.

Values in many instances were at the highest point of the season and in some places even passed the high level of early in the year when last year's crop of fed steers was coming marketward. Eastern shipper buyers were active buyers of good-to-choice fed steers at Chicago and even local packers gave good support to the market for specialties. All interests seemed to have a place for good heavy beef cows, but recently the outlet for light canner cows slackened materially.

### Sharp Cut in Cattle on Feed

It seems very improbable that there will be such a large carryover of long-fed cattle into the winter marketing season in view of the sharp reduction in the number of cattle on feed August 1 and the heavy marketings of fed cattle in August and September, according to release by the Department of Agriculture, and reports indicate some hesitancy on the part of cattle feeders in the Corn Belt and in the West.

Other conditions that usually determine the actions of cattle feeders are quite favorable for bringing about a large volume of feeding. Feed grains, hay and roughage, and high protein concentrates are of record or near record proportions in Corn Belt states and are relatively low in price in relation to present levels for fat cattle. The extent to which these favorable conditions will offset the hesitancy arising from the uncertain price situation will finally determine the volume of feeding as well as the time and methods of feeding during the coming season.

Indications point to smaller cattle feeding operations in the western states and this will be due partly to the difficult labor situation. This is especially true with feeders of a commercial type. Sugar-beet harvesting naturally has de-

layed replacement buying of cattle, but soon feeders in the West will be ready to make purchases. Supplies of feed grains and beet by-products in most of these states are fairly large but in some instances are below last year and hay prices are much higher than a year ago.

Minor changes in ceiling prices for dressed beef—and these changes if anything were slightly downward in some instances—had no apparent influence on price trends for live cattle. So far nothing has been done about price control of live cattle, although much discussion of this idea has been heard in the trade.

Slaughter of cattle, excluding calves, for September was 1,158,758 under federal inspection—over 150,000 more than the previous month and about the same increase over September, 1941. The January-September slaughter passed 9,000,000, or about 1,175,000 more than a year earlier and around 1,758,000 more than the five-year average. Sheep and calf slaughter also showed considerable increase from a year ago and the five-year average, while the January-September hog slaughter was nearly 6,000,000 above the same period in 1941 and showed almost 10,000,000 increase over the five-year average.

Choice and prime steers at Chicago during the week ending September 26 made up 49.1 per cent of the number sold out of first hands as against 54.8 per cent the corresponding week last year. Good at 35.7 per cent was down 1.7 per cent, while common and medium combined at 15.2 per cent were up 7.4 per cent. Weights for these grades were nearly 50 pounds lighter than a year ago. Choice and prime averaged \$15.89 and \$11.95, respectively, while good at \$14.65 stood \$3.18 higher than a year ago. The medium grade was \$2.20 higher and the common, \$2.18 higher. Grand average for all grades at \$15.01 compared with \$11.65 a year earlier.

### General Price Tendencies Improved

Mid-October prices at Chicago for grain-fed good-to-choice steers were

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largely 50 to 75 cents higher than a month earlier but there were instances of \$1 upturn. Common-to-low-medium grades for the period were around steady to 25 cents higher. Most of the fat heifers showed advance of about 50 cents but there was practically no change on common offerings. Good cows rose 75 cents to \$1.25 in most instances but medium kinds were steady and common kinds together with canners and cutters dropped off unevenly, some of the latter class showing 50 to 75 cents loss. Bulls were always wanted unless light and the general market was 25 to 50 cents higher. Calves and vealers looked steady to 50 cents higher.

Two loads of choice-to-prime fed steers, one from Colorado averaging 1,192 pounds and the other from Iowa averaging 1,300 pounds, topped at \$17.10 for a new high on the current crop and only 15 cents below the year's top established back in April. Any number of 1,200- to 1,500-pound loads scored \$17 and many were taken at \$16.50 to \$16.95, including some over 1,500 pounds at \$16.90. Light steers topped at \$16.85 and strictly yearlings reached \$16.65. The bulk of the good-to-choice steers went at \$13.50 to \$16.25 and some heavy Montanas reached \$14.75. Common and medium offerings were most usually secured at \$11 to \$13.25.

Both heifers and mixed yearlings topped at \$16 and other choice heifers were taken at \$15.50 to \$15.90, but the bulk of medium-to-good cleared at \$12.50 to \$15. Not many grass heifers passed \$12.50. In the course of one week, to show the unevenness of the cow market, good cows advanced 50 cents and other grades declined 25 to 50 cents. Many western grass-fat cows sold at \$11.50 to \$12.50 and some from Wyoming reached \$12.50 and best from Colorado topped at \$12.65. On the low spot heavy cutters went below \$9 and light canners sold down to \$6. It was largely a \$12 to \$12.50 market for the best heavy sausage bulls, but light kinds were to be had downward from \$11.

Choice 1,113-pound steers reached \$16.25 at Kansas City and others were noted at \$15.25 to \$15.75, but the bulk grading good to choice scored \$13.50 to \$15, while many medium offerings went at \$12 to \$13. The upper end of the grass-fat steer supply sold at \$12 to \$13.75, but many common and medium loads were secured at \$10 to \$11.75 and a cutter kind sold down to \$9.40. Grain-fed heifers sold up to \$15.50 and some at \$14.75 to \$15.15, but good kinds predominated at \$12.50 to \$13.75 and a medium grade often sold around \$11.50. Common cows went at \$8.75 to \$9.25, but many good lots scored \$10.50 to \$11 and some from Kansas reached \$11.35. Best grain-fed mixed yearlings sold at \$15.50 to \$16. Few vealers passed \$11 and not many bulls passed \$11.

Some strictly choice fed steers at Omaha made \$16.10 to \$16.35 and others made \$15.50 to \$16, but good to choice bulked at \$13.50 to \$15 and medium at

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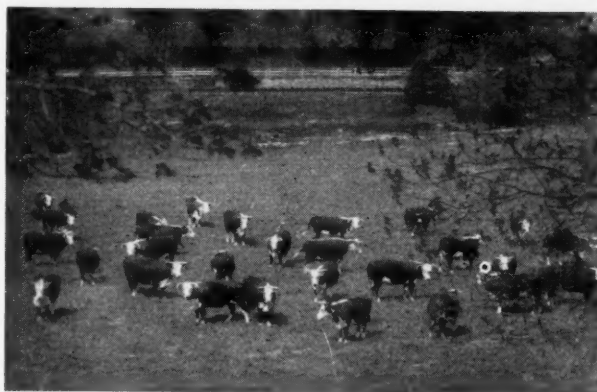
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\$12 to \$13. Most good-to-choice fed heifers sold at \$13 to \$14.25, with a few choice at \$14.50 and above. Grass-fat heifers usually sold below \$11.50. Best bulls went at \$11 to \$11.50. Medium-to-good range cows cleared at \$10 to \$11 and some scored \$11.25 to \$11.40.

Scattered loads of choice steers at Sioux City made \$15.25 to \$16.15 and the bulk sold at \$13 to \$15, while heifers topped at \$14.75. Good cows usually cleared at \$10.50 to \$11.35, but 1,150-pound Wyomings reached \$11.50. Top heavy bulls reached \$11.85 and light cutter kinds sold down to \$9. Most of the available fed steers at St. Joseph went at \$13 to \$14.50, but some scored \$15.10 to \$15.40 that did not represent top choice. Common-to-medium grass-fat steers sold at \$9.25 to \$12.60 and good fed Kansas kinds cleared at \$12.85 to \$13.75. Most fat heifers sold at \$10.50 to \$13.75 but choice reached \$14.75. Cows bulked at \$9 to \$10.50 and some scored \$11 to \$11.25. Bulls went mostly from \$11 down and vealers topped at \$14.

Some choice-to-prime 1,337-pound steers at St. Paul topped at \$16.65—the highest since September, 1937. A few other loads made \$15.75 to \$16.25 and some averaging 1,036 pounds sold as high as \$16.50. Common-to-choice bulked at \$10 to \$15.25. Best fed heifers landed at \$14.50 to \$14.75 and grass-fat heifers reached \$12.25. Any number of good heavy bulls went at \$11 to \$11.50. Not many cows passed \$11. Choice vealers reached \$14.50.

Low-to-average choice steers at Denver scored \$14.50 to \$15 and medium to good sold at \$12 to \$14. Good-to-choice fed heifers were taken at \$13 to \$14.85 and medium short-feds went down to \$11.50. Grass-fat heifers were slightly more numerous and medium-to-good kinds bulked at \$10.50 to \$11.75, although some light and heavy kinds late scored \$12 to \$12.50 and common sold below \$9.50. Best cows were most numerous at \$10.75 to \$11 and some scored \$11.15 to \$11.50, while common and medium were most numerous at \$9 to \$10.25, only light and shelly canners selling below \$6.50 at any time. It was largely a \$15 market for choice vealers but some quite frequently scored \$15.50. It was mostly a \$11 to \$13 market for heavy calves. Light bulls and common heavy kinds sold below \$9.50 but heavy good bulls often made \$10.50 and above.

#### Movement Into Corn Belt Larger

The movement of stocker and feeder cattle into Corn Belt states for July through September was considerably larger than a year ago but smaller than 1940 and 1939. Shipments through stockyards were about 100,000 head larger, or up 19 per cent, and the largest in fourteen years except for 1940 and 1939. Direct in-shipments into seven Corn Belt states for July-September were about the same as a year earlier. Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were the only

Corn Belt states not showing an increase this year.

Late in September the average price of stocker and feeder steers at Chicago at \$12.27 stood \$2.17 higher than a year ago, and at the same time Kansas City reported average cost of \$11.72 and \$9.74, respectively, and the St. Paul average of \$11.32 was \$2.37 above a year ago. These advances, however, do not equal the upturn on cattle sent back to market fat, but current high prices for replacement cattle are of some concern to many who to date have not made their usual purchases for the season ahead.

All classes of stocker and feeder cattle at Chicago at mid-October were generally 25 cents higher but there were instances of greater advance at that market and at many other centers. Stocker and feeder classes now being marketed are largely from the Southwest, the Northwest, and the Rocky Mountain area, and supplies have included a great number of good-to-choice kinds. Some buyers gave preference to the better grades of little cattle but others have been taking the fleshy heavy feeders in expectation of a gap in fat-steer supplies at a time when they could market after a short finishing period.

Any number of good-to-choice stocker and feeder steers at Chicago sold at \$13 to \$14.25, although very light weight Wyoming yearlings were reported at \$14.50 to \$15. Medium kinds were noted at \$12 and below but these were chiefly natives. Some heavy fleshy Montana feeder steers sold at \$13.90 and some around 900 pounds made \$12.95. There were some 700-pound Montana heifers taken on feeder account at \$11.60. Most of the better grade stock calves scored \$13.50 to \$14.50 and some reached \$15.

Medium-to-choice steers at Kansas City sold for finishing purposes at \$10 to \$13 and some choice yearlings went at \$13.25 to \$13.40. Some from Colorado scored \$13.50 to \$13.60. Fleshy 1,000- to 1,150-pound feeder steers were reported at \$13.50. Heifers went out at \$12 down. Most of the calves sold at \$12 to \$14.50 and best heifer calves were landed at \$13.50.

Good-to-choice steers were taken from Omaha at \$12.25 to \$14 but fancy 638- to 682-pound yearlings made \$14.25 to \$14.50. Medium-to-good native stockers made \$10.50 to \$11.75 and common-to-medium, \$9 to \$11. There were some choice 800-pound feeders at \$14 and some heavier fleshy offerings went at \$13.30 to \$13.35. Good-to-choice heifers went out at \$11 to \$12.25 and medium-to-good stock cows at \$8.25 to \$9.25. Good-to-choice steer calves usually sold at \$14 to \$15.25 but some made \$15.50 and fancy 400-pound weights scored \$15.75 to \$16.50. Better grade heifer calves were sold at \$12.75 to \$13.60.

Several loads of choice yearling stock steers at Denver went at \$13.60 to \$14 and many good-to-choice scored \$12.50 to \$13.50. Older steers were most numerous at \$12 to \$12.75 but some landed at

\$12.85 to \$13 and fleshy heavy feeders were taken at \$13.25 to \$13.75. The common and medium steers of most ages went at \$10 to \$11.75, a few small lots going down to \$9. Medium-to-good Idaho feeder steers sold at \$11.60 to \$12.75. Most of the good-to-choice heifers landed at \$10.50 to \$11.75 but best loads scored \$12 to \$12.25. Common-to-good stock cows sold at \$7 to \$9.10. Most of the heavy steer calves sold from \$14.50 down, but a load averaging 304 pounds reached \$15.25, with the freight paid to a Missouri point. Medium to strictly good heifer calves landed at \$11 to \$13.

It was largely a \$11 to \$13 market in St. Joseph for medium-to-good stocker and feeder steers, but some reached \$13.75 and common sold down to \$9.50. Good-to-choice steer calves cleared at \$13 to \$14.50. Common-to-choice steers went out from St. Paul at \$9 to \$13.25 in the absence of choice light yearlings. Not many calves passed \$13.50. Medium-to-good steers at Sioux City made \$11 to \$12.75, and choice \$13.15 to \$13.50, with a few yearlings below 600 pounds going at \$13.75 to \$14. Fleshy heavy feeders made \$12.40 to \$13.10. Most heifers went out at \$10.50 to \$12.25 but some 600-pound Montanas made \$12.50. Medium-to-good cows were reported at \$8.25 to \$9.25. Good-to-choice steer calves sold at \$13 to \$15, with a 405-pound load at \$15.25 and best heifer calves at \$13.50.

#### Hogs Fluctuate to Higher Levels

Hog prices generally were higher, but there were many fluctuating markets since the middle of September. Hogs with weight continue to find the best outlet and as a rule those from 200 to 300 pounds command the top figure. Those above 300 pounds sell at only slight discount, but those below 160 pounds sell at the low end of the scale despite their scarcity. Strictly speaking, most good-to-choice hogs sold within a narrow range.

An outstanding feature of the market was the way sows have been selling. Such offerings sell at or near the top paid for butchers, and this is not only true of Chicago but of many other markets. One day recently the average price of sows at Omaha was higher than the average for the day on butcher hogs. It is explained to some extent by the heavy demand for fats, and as a rule the sows which come to market are bigger than other hogs and carry more lard. The cold storage holdings of lard on October 1 of 54,547,000 pounds compared with 75,840,000 pounds on September 1, in the face of heavier live hog receipts, and compared with 214,299,000 pounds on October 1, 1941, and 139,001,000 for the October 1 five-year average.

Mid-October hog prices were largely 60 to 90 cents higher than a month earlier and sows showed as much upturn as butchers. Quite frequently on a down market sows did not break so much as butchers; but, on the other hand, recovery by sows following a decline often



was not so great as for butchers, apparently buyers attempting to equalize the trend on both classes over a period of time.

Top hogs closed at \$15.25 in September, and about a week before that best were worth less than \$15. Opening in October at \$15.40, the top was immediately boosted to \$15.70 and as quickly set back to \$15.35. On October 8 the top soared to \$15.75, standing as the highest price in twenty-two years. This was followed by decline with few interruptions, and by mid-October best butchers and sows sold at \$15.05.

Movement of lambs out of Colorado to all centers was heavy, but the peak of the movement has passed. Receipts from all states at Denver have already passed the 2,000,000-mark, but a great part of this number came recently from Colorado ranges and over 71,000 were through and on sale in one day. Demand for fat lambs has held up well, although it has been a fluctuating market and there were times when shipping call slackened only to be revived. Chicago received many native lambs and all markets reported unusually large numbers of ewes each week.

There will be some decrease in the volume of feeding during the 1942-43 season from the record volume of a year earlier, according to a release by the Department of Agriculture, based on information available early in October. Indications are that the number fed in the eleven Corn Belt states may be about the same as last year, but feeding in the western states may be materially reduced.

Shipments of feeder lambs and sheep into eleven Corn Belt states July through September did not differ much from a year ago. Feeder shipments through stockyards were 10 per cent larger and the largest in eleven years. Direct in-shipments in seven of these states fell off sharply, but this decrease was offset by a large direct movement into Kansas. It looks as though fewer lambs will be fed in Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Probably Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa will show little change, but Indiana and Kansas will show some increase over a year earlier.

#### West Will Feed Fewer Lambs

Western states will feed lambs on a considerably reduced scale, with the possible exception of California. Lambs under contract to feeders early in October were much below normal. In areas where lamb feeding is closely associated with sugar-beet production, most feeders are concerned at present with getting their beets harvested and delaying decisions as to feeding operations.

Fat-lamb prices at mid-October at Chicago were around 25 cents lower than a month earlier, as there was slight recovery near the end of the period. Yearlings were not very plentiful, although some good-to-choice loads have

been appearing from feed-lots and late prices were steady to 25 cents lower. Ewes under rather a liberal supply and a comparatively good demand looked mostly weak to 25 cents lower.

Early in October choice fat western lambs at Chicago were selling up to \$14.50 and best natives below \$14.25, and a short time later sales of good-to-choice westerns were reported at \$14 to \$14.50 and natives as high as \$14.35. About this time some good Montanas had to sell at \$13.25 to \$13.75. Toward the middle of the month choice Colorado sold as high as \$14.75 and best natives were taken at \$14.50 to \$14.60, while some pea-fed Washingtons landed at \$14.

Many of the better grade yearlings cleared at \$11.25 to \$11.85, although there were some at \$12. and higher, with the extreme top \$12.75. Late in September when best Washington and native lambs reached \$15 the top on fat ewes was \$6, but later in the period it was largely a \$5 to \$5.75 market for medium-to-choice fat ewes, although some around the middle of October came from Wyoming with finish enough to bring \$5.90.

Contracting of feeding lambs on the ranges has about ended for the season and there have been many loads for delivery around October 1 through the Denver yards. Recent prices on the range were lower than earlier in the season, but most of the better lambs had been purchased previously. Not many feeding lambs were noted at Chicago, but some good-to-choice lots sold recently at \$13. Most of the good-to-choice range feeding lambs purchased at Denver and Omaha during October were taken at \$12.50 to \$13 and only occasional early sales were made above that price range, the general market as compared with a month ago showing loss of around 25 to 50 cents.

## WOOL & HIDE TRADE

By H. W. F.

**R**ECENT NEGOTIATIONS BY THE army quartermaster for substantial quantities of wool cloth and blankets to be made of 100 per cent domestic wool had a good influence on the wool market. Price levels have changed little but the market was spotty.

Mill consumption of apparel wool reached a new record of 11,500,000 pounds a week, on a scoured basis, in July, and this rate was 7 per cent above June and 23 per cent higher than in July, 1941. The consumption in August, on a clean basis, was 47,800,000 pounds against 56,500,000 pounds in July and 53,500,000 pounds in August last year. Total wool consumption for the first eight months amounted to 406,900,000 pounds as compared with 419,200,000 pounds for a like period a year earlier.

Manufacturers have been examining deliveries of recent large purchases, and

some topmakers are showing concern over lack of new worsted orders and report their backlog of orders as getting very low. Most all recent government orders were for wool types of cloth. Short Texas wools have been in demand and are being used in making lining cloths when mixed with longer staple lots and also for yarn for recent order of 22,500,000 pairs of light weight socks.

Business in foreign wools has been light, as importers are awaiting information on importation licenses. Spot South American wools were firm and Australian and Cape wools were unchanged. Call for noils exceeded the supply at ceiling prices. Wool bought in the auctions in the West has been arriving at the eastern mills.

Estimates around October 1 as to wool left in Texas indicated twelve-months variety at 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 pounds, and eight-months, 500,000. It is expected that this year's fall clip will be considerably less than the normal 10,000,000-pound yield. Some twelve-months Texas wools were sold at slightly lower figures, because best clips were purchased earlier. One sale of 250,000 pounds of twelve-months Texas wool was sold at 46½ cents. Reports have been heard of contracting of next year's clip in Texas at 40 cents, in the grease.

Small sales of country graded Ohio and Michigan fleece wools were noted at 52 to 53 cents, grease basis. Fine delaine of average staple was sold at 46 cents.

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### Range Bulls and Herd Bulls

PROSPECTS FOR SALE

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**Crestone, Colo.**

Medium fine staple territory wools were cleared on a clean basis at \$1.14 to \$1.18. Scattered sales of fine and half blood were made at ceiling prices. Boston dealers are grading original bag lots and making deliveries of graded lines recently sold.

Fall shorn Texas wools were sold at 37 to 38 cents and a few light lots at 40 to 42 cents, in the grease. Some twelve-months wool was reported at 46 to 48 cents.

Graded mohair found some demand but prices were considerably below quotations during the last activity some months ago. Some demand was noted in the country for kid hair; but country prices have been weak since spring, reaching a low of 55 cents for kid and 45 cents for adult. Current prices reported in Texas are 65 cents for kid and 45 to 48 cents for adult. Tropical suits for next summer will contain a much higher percentage of mohair than last year.

#### Hides

Packers filled their allocations for September, but not until late in October will permits for October be granted to sell the current take-off. Meanwhile the market was slow but sales when made were usually at ceiling levels. With the fall run of cattle on, more hides will be available, but there is need for an increase and no price changes are expected to develop. It has been a controlled market and supplies have not been heavy.

Quotations which are more or less nominal follow: Heavy and light native steer and cow, 15½ cents; branded and heavy Texas steer, 14½ cents; branded cow, 14½ cents; native bull, 12 cents. Packer kipskins were quoted at 20 cents and packer calfskins at 27 cents.

The country hide market was very dull and mostly nominal, although there was some inquiry for heavy hides and those of the better grades. Quotations were as follows: Native, all-weights, 15 cents; extremes, 28 to 43 pounds, 15 cents; and branded hides, 14 cents. Bull hides made 10 to 10½ cents.

## MARKETING GOSSIP

BY J. E. POOLE

**"CHARLIE" RICE, THE ORGANIZ-**ing maestro of the stockyard commission men, is making strenuous effort to lure Kansas City and other recalcitrant local exchanges back into the national exchange, of which he is president. Once a powerful, united group, the National disintegrated during the Brown-Boyd regime—a process facilitated by Dan Hildebrand, of Nebraska, who launched the United States Live Stock Association, with headquarters at Kansas City, which ascended in rocket fashion, then subsided. Hildebrand figured as the Nemesis of the country-buying packer. He seriously proposed to abolish the practice, formulating variegated national and state legislation that

seldom got past the "referred to committee" stage. Rice has tuned out that note, realizing that country buying is a permanent institution. He is endeavoring to heal the breach between packers and the commission interests, using persuasion instead of threat, although meeting with scant encouragement from packing magnates, where contention is that they are merely acting in self-defense and that country buying, especially in the case of hogs, is an economic development.

That packer buying in the country is advantageous to the packer arm of the trade will not be seriously disputed. It is an added expense and would not have been resorted to otherwise. Pete Underwood, of Chicago, was the innovator of the practice, which speedily grew to enormous proportions, facilitated by truck gathering. Concentration points were established and local buyers employed. One immediate result was elimination of the formerly numerous co-operative livestock shipping associations, of which Iowa once boasted some 900 units. Collapse of that marketing system was hastened by managerial incompetence and cupidity. A few of these associations survived, but the institution is no longer a factor in livestock marketing. The co-operative movement put the old-time country buyer out of business; now he is playing a return engagement in the capacity of packer buyer, salaried or on commission, or both. Packers wrecked many co-operative associations by the simple method of paying more money for hogs locally than could be realized by sending them to the market—a case of dog eat dog.

Anyhow country buying in the case of all three species has come to stay. At a recent Chicago meeting packer representatives told commission men just that, without garnishing their language. How it has hit the commission man in the region of the pocketbook is indicated by diminished receipts at every market. Kansas City was the first to suffer, because of diversion to the Mistletoe yards; at Chicago old-time daily runs of 75,000 to 100,000 have been crimped to 10,000 to 15,000, and not infrequently "directs" equal saleable hogs when the Swift delegation which goes around the stockyards is figured in. Hogs now come from everywhere and go everywhere. Recently I spent a day at the Bushnell, Illinois, market operated by John Wood, formerly Santa Fe livestock agent. On that day seven double decks were consigned to the Kingan house at Indianapolis, realizing within 25 cents per cwt. of Chicago prices. However, Chicago is still the hog price basing point.

What will happen when and if this gauge disappears? Swine growers ask me this question seriously, but sell "direct" nevertheless. They, unconsciously perhaps, hold to the scriptural injunction that "sufficient to the day is the evil thereof." The problem is, however, well worth cogitating. A no less author-

ity on marketing than Colonel E. N. Wentworth, a packer representative, asserts that packers have no intention of deserting the terminal markets, which is true, as frequently they buy a sufficient number to "keep on the books." When prices at the market break, packers invariably clean up the crop at the bottom of the decline; otherwise they go over as "stalers," often realizing more money on the next session, as the country has a confirmed habit of refusing to load trucks on breaks. Actually the truck is responsible for unstable market conditions and always will be as long as rubber is available. Railroads are partial to country buying, as packer hogs gathered at western points journey to central packing points on the cars.

Terminal markets are still adequately manned despite reduced commissions and shrinking volume. Omaha, for instance, has some sixty commission houses. Chicago has more. Economy has been effected by a system of clearing the business of minor concerns through others. This enables many to stay in business who would otherwise have been under the necessity of folding up long since. Chicago has an apprentice system which prevents Tom, Dick, and Harry from getting into the competition for business overnight, stopping a constant influx of neophytes from the country, with a background of business from pa, Uncle John, and possibly a coterie of personal friends. By this restriction and retirement of memberships with money secured by assessments, the recent surplus of selling and soliciting talent has been gradually reduced. Excessive solicitation has been the bete noir of the commission business since its inception, although in recent years it has been partly regulated. Now that gas is rationed complete disappearance is probable. Recently I met a Chicago cattle salesman with a ten-car consignment from one shipper. "Never knew his name before," he explained. "I was in his neighborhood a week ago and naturally did not call. Asked him today how he came to send me the business, and he replied that on the day I was there a dozen solicitors bothered him, adding that he consigned to me because I was considerate enough to stay away."

Harking back to the National Live Stock Exchange, I recall the castigation administered to that body, in convention assembled at Cincinnati back in 1917. Direct livestock buying was even then a disturbing influence. "Ed" Burke, of Nebraska, had made himself non persona grata in Packingtown by excoriating practices he did not approve. Someone pulled a boner by writing him to address the convention, probably on the theory that his antagonism to packers implied sympathy with commission men. It was a gala event. The masculine wealth and feminine beauty of the markets were there dolled up in their richest raiment. General McCarthy, the veteran Cincin-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



...ati packer, illuminated the ball with flashes of wit and the repast was a triumph of gastronomic art at \$10 per plate. Over the throng was an invisible sword of the Damoclean type, suspended by a horsehair. Burke was at his best, eloquently denunciatory. When the persiflage had been uncorked and the welcomes and responses thereto disposed of, the Nebraskan arose, loaded for bear. Those who anticipated packer beration were soon undeceived. In prophetic mood Burke told the assembled market representatives of what he considered their sins of omission and commission.

"Some people have been sowing wind; you are about to reap whirlwind," said he. "I am not posing as a prophet, but anybody can read the handwriting on the wall. You are facing government control, and you will not relish it. The government will regulate commissions and impose other restrictions." In a forty-minute talk, in which he did not mention the packing interest, he outlined what the markets faced. All this has come true. During Harding's brief term the Packers and Stock Yard Administration was authorized by Congress by and with the approval of Secretary Wallace, father of Henry Wallace, commissions were slashed, and the exchanges practically deprived of market management. In the welter of resultant litigation, the exchanges were worsted completely. They did not cash a bet. Chief Justice Taft delivered the first decision, declaring that the stockyards were doing an interstate business, whereupon Secretary Wallace proffered an olive branch, his only condition being that the exchanges come into camp and go along with the government. He conveyed an implication that the terms would be easy but the proffer was spurned. Repeatedly the stockyards people approached the United States Supreme Court, only to be thrown out. That contest is ended. The lawyers are no longer getting fees from the exchanges.

Livestock exchanges came into existence to fill a long-felt need. During the pre-exchange period some of the trade was on a rotten basis. Bad commercial practice became a fine art. Prompt remittance of sales proceeds was often wanting. New styles in commercial rascality developed until the honest element, apprehensive that the entire marketing system would go on the rocks, organized for self-protection and the protection of the country. The remedy proved efficacious. The rascally element was "given the gate," the exchanges exercised great power, and the business of handling livestock at the public markets was placed on a basis of integrity. Even now occasional exchange discipline is necessary, as the ponderous federal arm is characteristically tardy in getting into action. Only recently offenders have been disciplined, fined, and even ejected before Washington knew what was going on. Exchange disputes rarely reach the civil courts.

## HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Oct 1, 1942†	Sept. 1, 1942	Oct. 1, 1941	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef .....	83,271,000	69,211,000	60,442,000	32,334,000
Cured Beef* .....	11,911,000	14,077,000	12,924,000	12,121,000
Lamb and Mutton, Frozen.....	11,276,000	7,602,000	4,093,000	2,935,000
Frozen Pork .....	67,848,000	94,884,000	101,230,000	73,911,000
Dry Salt Pork* .....	73,691,000	97,706,000	95,368,000	64,294,000
Pickled Pork* .....	127,242,000	144,044,000	174,764,000	173,909,000
Frozen and Cured Trimmings.....	79,898,000	93,748,000	63,581,000	55,432,000
Lard .....	54,547,000	75,840,000	214,299,000	139,001,000
Rendered Pork Fat.....	7,714,000	9,434,000	3,661,000	.....
Frozen Poultry .....	116,535,000	86,645,000	96,701,000	74,475,000

\*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

## CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	Oct. 15, 1942	Sept. 15, 1942	Oct. 15, 1941
<b>FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—</b>			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up).....	\$20.75-22.25	\$20.50-22.00	\$17.00-18.00
Steer—Good .....	19.00-20.50	19.00-20.50	16.00-17.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.).....	20.75-22.25	20.50-22.00	18.00-19.00
Steer—Good .....	19.00-20.50	19.00-20.50	17.00-18.50
Yearling Steer—Choice .....	20.75-22.25	20.50-22.00	19.00-20.00
Yearling Steer—Good .....	19.00-20.50	19.00-20.50	18.00-19.00
Veal and Calf—Choice.....	21.25-22.75	21.00-22.50	18.00-21.00
Veal and Calf—Good.....	19.00-21.00	19.00-21.00	16.00-20.00
<b>FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—</b>			
Lamb—Choice (all weights).....	23.00-26.00	25.00-27.00	18.00-20.00
Lamb—Good .....	20.00-23.00	23.50-25.50	17.50-19.00
Ewe—Good .....	11.00-13.00	12.00-13.00	9.00-10.00
Ewe—Commercial .....	10.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	8.00- 9.00
<b>FRESH PORK CUTS—</b>			
Loin—8-12 lb. average.....	27.00-29.00	27.00-29.00	22.50-23.00

## CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Oct. 15, 1942	Sept. 15, 1942	Oct. 15, 1941
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)....	\$16.00-17.00	\$15.25-16.50	\$11.00-12.00
Slaughter Steers—Good .....	14.25-16.00	13.75-15.50	10.25-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.).....	15.75-16.75	14.50-16.00	11.75-12.75
Slaughter Steers—Good .....	14.00-15.50	13.50-14.50	10.75-12.00
Slaughter Steers—Med. (700-1,300 lbs.).....	11.50-14.25	11.00-14.00	9.00-11.25*
Fed Young Steers—Go.-Ch. (700-900 lbs.).....	14.00-16.75	13.50-15.50	11.25-12.75†
Heifers—Good-Choice .....	13.50-16.00	12.25-15.50	10.25-12.75
Cows—Good .....	11.75-12.75	10.25-12.75	8.25- 8.75
Vealers—Good-Choice .....	13.50-15.50	14.50-16.00	12.50-14.00
Calves—Good-Choice .....	11.50-13.75	12.00-14.00	8.50-10.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd.-Ch.....	12.00-14.25	11.50-14.00	9.50-12.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.....	10.00-12.00	9.50-12.00	7.25- 9.75
Hogs—Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.).....	14.70-15.00	14.10-14.35	10.50-10.85
Lambs—Good-Choice .....	14.25-14.75	14.00-14.60	11.25-11.50
Yearling Wethers—Gd.-Ch. ....	11.75-12.50	11.25-12.25	9.25- 9.65
Ewes—Good-Choice .....	5.50- 6.00	5.50- 6.25	4.75- 5.75

\*750-1,300 pounds. †750-900 pounds.

## LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	September 1942	September 1941	First Nine Months 1942	First Nine Months 1941
<b>RECEIPTS—</b>				
Cattle* .....	1,918,170	1,619,267	12,691,615	10,636,272
Calves .....	686,878	589,124	4,592,511	4,278,708
Hogs .....	2,528,936	2,035,313	24,193,748	21,647,131
Sheep and Lambs .....	3,656,831	2,557,090	19,311,379	16,447,188
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—</b>				
Cattle* .....	956,911	705,409	5,132,637	4,100,445
Calves .....	320,769	256,965	1,773,490	1,585,563
Hogs .....	608,474	533,094	6,052,515	5,694,127
Sheep and Lambs .....	2,073,159	1,495,278	9,170,038	7,767,862
<b>STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—</b>				
Cattle* .....	530,727	416,052	2,405,285	2,065,694
Calves .....	128,514	115,386	627,893	582,247
Hogs .....	48,454	37,530	466,579	445,230
Sheep and Lambs.....	780,674	631,605	2,699,264	2,074,170
<b>SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—</b>				
Cattle* .....	1,158,758	1,004,244	9,067,156	7,881,950
Calves .....	513,052	446,641	4,204,916	3,992,678
Hogs .....	3,842,564	2,920,384	37,878,284	32,034,778
Sheep and Lambs.....	2,222,704	1,567,287	14,980,239	13,447,457

\*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

## FEED MORE PROTEIN

**T**HE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE urges stockmen to feed more oilseed cake and meal for increased livestock production. For many years, the department said, livestock producers have used insufficient high-protein feeds. Much of this deficit can now be made up by the use of oilmeal press-cakes, and there is a wartime urgency about this besides. The fats and oils part of the 1942 food-for-freedom program has been so successful that our manufacturers of meat, milk, and eggs, who use cows, pigs, sheep, and poultry as their machines for production will have oilseed cake and meal for high-protein feeds in unusual abundance and favorably priced.

There are three groups of high-protein feeds. First, the oilseed cakes and meals produced from soybeans, cottonseed, flaxseed, and peanuts; second, the animal protein feeds produced from livestock or livestock products—skim milk, tankage, meat scrap, fishmeal, etc.; third, certain miscellaneous feeds like copra cake and meal, brewers' and distillers' dried grains, and gluten feed.

Skim milk is an important protein feed, especially for hogs and poultry, sometimes for dairy calves, but the 1942 supply is estimated to be 5 to 10 per cent smaller than in 1941 and slightly below the 1935-39 average, because of increased sale of skim milk for drying for lend-lease purposes. Tankage and meat scraps are used principally in hog feeding and in poultry feeds, respectively. Production of both is larger this year, but it is sufficient to supplement only a small part (say a sixth) of the corn fed to hogs; the remainder must be otherwise supplemented. Fishmeal, used primarily in poultry rations, is a product imported to the extent of from 15 to 30 per cent during 1936-40. Imports of copra cake and meal are sharply reduced, though fairly large quantities of brewers' and distillers' grains will be produced; these are mainly dairy feeds.

The total production of animal-protein feeds, including skim milk, is estimated to be about 8 per cent smaller in 1942 than in 1941. The supply per animal unit is about 18 per cent smaller. A deficiency of these feeds is in prospect for 1943. That will make it necessary for hog and poultry farmers to rely more and more on the large prospective production of soybeans and other oil meals.

Beef cattle, the department points out, need protein to replace break-down tissue and to provide for the growth of hair, horns, hoofs, and tissue. Protein-rich feeds are usually used sparingly because of their cost. They are especially important in lactation and reproduction. Growing animals also require liberal protein, as most of their early weight gain consists of lean muscular tissue. Cottonseed, linseed, soybean, or peanut meals are good high-protein sources for beef cattle.

## ROUND THE RANGE

### WESTERN RANGE AND STOCK REPORT

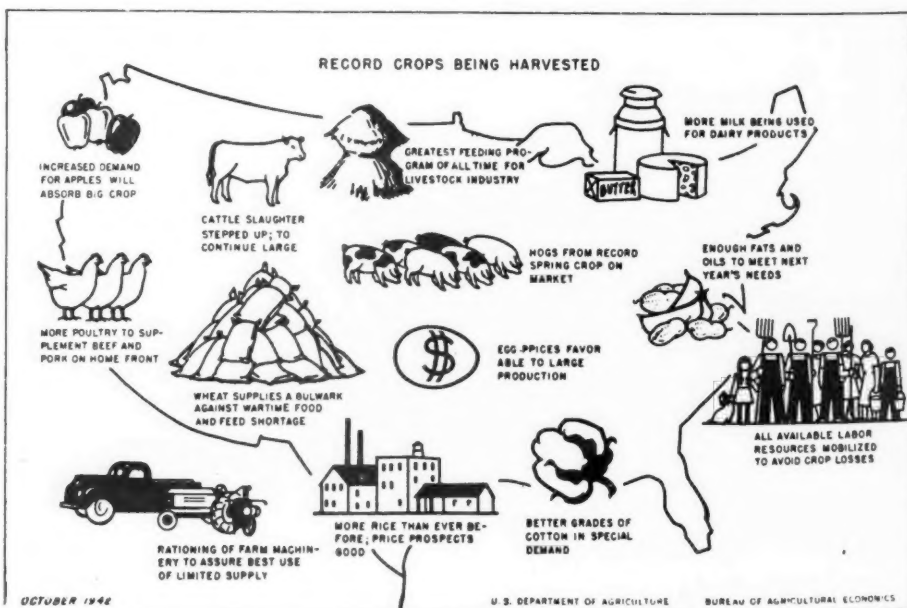
**T**HE SUPPLY OF FEED ON OCTOBER 1 was very good on the ranges east of the Rockies, but dry weather has reduced the condition of feed west of the main range, according to the Denver western livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Cattle and sheep continue in very good condition, except in limited local dry areas.

Ranges east of the main range continued to produce a very good supply of feed. September weather was favorable for curing range feed in the northern Great Plains and rain improved range and pasture feeds in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico and toughened grass in the North. Late fall and winter range feed supplies were very good in Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, eastern Wyoming, eastern Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. This large Great Plains area had very good crops of hay, grains, and roughage feeds. Wheat pasture prospects were good in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. West of the Rockies continued dry weather generally lowered the condition of range feed. The lower and winter ranges in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, western Colorado, western Wyoming, and Nevada had a fair to good growth of dry feed but rain was needed. Arizona, where dry weather continued, had poor winter feed prospects. California had above average supplies of feeds on ranges, pastures, and fields. Hay supplies were not large in some parts of the Far West, but there were generally large crops of small grains. California had larger supplies of grains than last year.

Reported condition of range feed on October 1 was 87 per cent, the same percentage as a month ago, as compared with 92 last year, 82 two years ago, and 78 for the ten-year (1932-41) average.

Cattle and calves had done well during the early fall and were generally in good to very good condition except in limited local areas and Arizona where range feed was dry. Marketing of cattle and calves during September was larger than in September, 1941. Marketings were heavy from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, with reports of a heavy run from Arizona. Country contracting of cattle and calves was not so active in September as during August. There had been some tendency to market cattle earlier than usual, particularly from areas where range feed was dry. Cattle and calves were generally showing a good grass finish, good weights.

Sheep and lambs continued in good condition, with only slight shrinkage where sheep moved to lower ranges which were dry. In Texas and New Mexico sheep made good gains with improved range feed. Sheep and lambs moved earlier than last fall from northern late lamb sections. The movement included a large number of old ewes from the North, with a heavy run of old ewes from Texas. Generally the late lambs from the northern sections and Texas weighed a few pounds less than in the fall of 1941. Lamb contracting on the range was not so active during September as during August. A large number of old ewes were offered for sale, with a considerable number of yearling and mixed aged ewes. Feed on winter sheep ranges was generally good in Texas, New Mexico, Montana, the western Dakotas, eastern Wyoming, and eastern Colorado, with a fair to good supply of dry feed west of the range.



OCTOBER 1942

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



## BULLETINS IN BRIEF

### BREED PUBLICITY JOB

An addition to the staff of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association is announced by W. H. Tomhave, secretary. The new member is Colin Kennedy, who will handle the breed pub-



Colin Kennedy

licity. He comes to the Aberdeen-Angus Association with a background of fourteen years experience in livestock and agricultural publication work. After graduation in 1928 from the Iowa State College, Mr. Kennedy was for two years farm editor of the *Waterloo* (Iowa) *Daily Courier*, joining the staff of the *Chicago Daily Drovers Journal* in 1930. He comes to the Aberdeen-Angus association from the *National Provisioner*, where he has been associate editor. For a number of years, Mr. Kennedy has been an editorial contributor to *Country Gentleman* and *Successful Farming*.

### MORE BEEF FROM THE SAME NUMBER OF CATTLE

"More Beef from the Same Number of Cattle" is the subject of a booklet by C. A. Brennen and C. E. Fleming of the agricultural experiment station of the University of Nevada. The program calls for: (1) seasonal breeding in order to have as many calves as possible dropped at the start of grazing season; (2) feeding weaner calves an adequate amount of good quality hay to keep them gaining through the winter; (3) placing market cattle on "tame" grass and clover pasture or aftermath when range grasses dry up, in order to provide nutritious feed high in protein content until selling time; (4) improving the production and the quality of forage from irrigated lands by controlling irrigation and by planting

"tame" grasses and clovers in favorable areas of "wild" grass meadows; (5) cutting hay in the bloom stage or earlier to conserve the supply of protein and vitamins; (6) blending seasonal breeding, cattle feeding, grazing, and forage production practices together so that cattle will make the best possible use of the ranch resources and will make satisfactory gains consistently from birth to selling time. The bulletin may be had from the station at Reno.

### TRUCK CERTIFICATE

By mid-October the ODT had mailed more than a third of the application blanks to single unit operators of motor vehicles who must, under recent order, apply for certificates of war necessities in order to get gas, tires, and repairs for their trucks. Mailings of blanks to fleet operators was already completed. Any operator who has been missed in the general mailing, should apply to his nearest ODT motor transport division field office for a form to apply for his application blank, fill it out, and return it to the office from which it was obtained. He will then receive an application blank. The ODT, however, asks that operators of one or two commercial motor vehicles make sure first that mailings have been completed in their counties before applying for the form.

### WANT END TO WOOL RESTRICTIONS

"All branches of the men's clothing industry from wool growers to retailers," according to the *New York Times*, recently asserted that an immediate review of the wool situation should be conducted by the WPB to terminate conservation orders "which have disrupted various branches of the market since early this year." Tremendous stocks of wool are held in this country, it was said. Besides, Great Britain has been exporting large quantities of worsted and woolen fabrics to the United States and large quantities of wool are coming here from Australia, New Zealand and South America.

### QUALITY IMPROVES WITH QUANTITY

"A few months ago the production of dehydrated meat was on the small quantity, doubtful quality scale. In 1943 we believe the industry will be producing at the rate of 60,000,000 pounds of dehydrated meat annually. One ship can carry as much dehydrated meat as ten ships can carry of ordinary carcass meat, and 60,000,000 pounds of dehydrated meat are equivalent to 180,000,000 pounds of boneless meat. We wouldn't have nearly so many fighting men in England and the Pacific today if the packing industry hadn't helped work out ways of saving shipping space."—Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard.

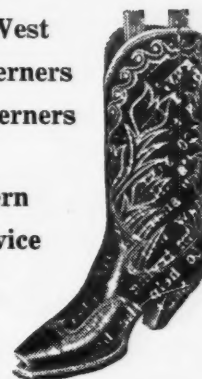


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- 1.00 Florida Cattleman and Dairyman
- .20 Poultry Keeper
- 2.00 New Agriculture (sugar beets)
- 1.00 Texas Livestock Journal
- 1.00 The Country Book, quarterly
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## "WHERE TO BUY" AD DEPARTMENT

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Abortion vaccine; calfhood vaccination. Government licensed strain 19. Free literature. Kansas City Vaccine Company, Department 1-A, Stockyards, Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Oesterhaus, owner.

**WANTED:** Used Western Stock Saddles, any make or condition. We pay cash. Write full description as to size, condition, age and lowest cash price. NEWELL'S SADDLE SHOP, 1627 South Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

**FOR SALE:** Large New Mexico ranch consisting of 240,000 acres of deeded lands and 125,000 acres of leased land. Well improved, with plenty of water. Also ranch of 27,000 acres of deeded land, all improved with lots of water. Both priced to sell, with good terms.

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This hotel has just been redecorated . . . has 12 rooms upstairs, bath, electric lights, and finished basement. Four adjoining cabins and filling station go with hotel.

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Hotel cost \$30,000 to build. Will sell all for \$3,750.

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## EUROPEAN CATTLE NUMBERS

European cattle numbers have declined since 1939, but the reduction in cattle through 1941 has not been so great as in hogs and poultry, the Department of Agriculture reports. Cattle raisers, as a rule, have been allowed priority in the allocation of feedstuffs in most countries to maintain as high production of milk as possible. Cattle numbers in Europe had reached a high in 1938 and 1939. Numbers in 1939 were estimated at 113,000,000 head, exceeding the average for the 1931-35 period by 5 per cent. Europe, exclusive of the Soviet Union, supported 15 percent of the world total, estimated at 699,000,000 head for the 1931-35 period. Information indicates that cattle numbers in twelve important countries of continental Europe in 1941 totaled 61,450,000 head—a reduction of approximately 7 per cent as compared with 1939. Cattle numbers in the United Kingdom were about 1 per cent larger in 1941 than in 1939, whereas the number in Ireland was 2 per cent larger.

## POSITION OF AGRICULTURE AND LABOR COMPARED

Figures on the relative position of agriculture and labor show that the average monthly earnings for employed factory workers, using the period 1935-39 at 100, were in July, 1942, 159; total income from salaries and wages, 179.9; and total non-agricultural income, 163. Cost of living, on the other hand, is shown on the same basis of comparison as 116.9 for all items, 124.6 for food, and 125.3 for clothing. The percentage of consumer income used for food purchases in 1935-39 was 27; in July, 1942, 22. Percentage of retail dollar taken for processing and distribution was 58 for 1935-39 and 48 for July, 1942. The percentage of retail dollar received by the farmer was 42 in 1935-39; 52 in July, 1942. In July, 1942, the farm labor wage scale index (1935-39 as 100) was 171.8; farm price index, all items, 145; and meat animal index, 163. These are National Live Stock Marketing Association figures.

## CROP INDICATIONS

The Department of Agriculture reported an indicated 1942 corn production of 3,132,002,000 bushels (compared with 2,672,541,000 bushels in 1941) and a 1942 wheat production of 984,046,000 bushels (945,937,000 bushels in 1941). The indicated yield of cotton is 13,818,000 bales as of October 1—down 210,000 bales from September forecasts. Record crops are indicated for corn, barley, all grain, all hay, beans and peas, oil seed, sugar crops, vegetables, and probably fruits.

## CHICAGO FAT STOCK COMPETITION

The full prize lists offered in past International livestock expositions in fat classes will be provided in the Chicago Market Fat Stock and Carlot Competi-

tion to be held December 2-5 at the Chicago stockyards. The regular International was cancelled for 1942 in compliance with the wishes of the ODT. The market competition will not interfere with transportation, as the movement will be one way only, all the animals being destined for market anyway. The competition will include classes for individual steers in both open and junior departments, carlots of both fat and feeder cattle, and both individual and carlot classes for hogs and sheep. There will also be junior classes for hogs and sheep. There will also be junior classes for lambs and barrows. Entries for the individual classes of the competition closed on November 1 but for the carlot divisions they will be open until November 21. Premium lists for the event may be had on request to B. H. Heide, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

## FARM OPERATOR INCOME GREATLY INCREASED

The net income, including government payments, of farm operators in 1942 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture to be \$9,785,000,000—an increase of about 45 per cent over 1941, more than double the 1935-39 average, and about \$1,000,000,000 more than the peak net income of 1919. Cash income from farm marketings in 1942 will be about \$15,000,000,000. Government payments will raise total cash farm incomes to around \$15,600,000,000 compared with \$11,800,000,000 in 1941 and the 1935-39 average of \$8,500,000,000. Total gross farm income, including the value of what the farm furnished to the individual for living, will be about \$18,500,000,000.

## WHR BULLS AVERAGE \$2,476

Fifty-six bulls and females sold on October 12 by the Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Cheyenne, Wyoming, brought an average of \$1,744. Twenty-five bulls in the lot averaged \$2,476 and thirty-one females sold at an average of \$1,131. The top bull, WHR Ruling Star 53d, champion at the recent Great Falls, Montana, show, sold to Walton Thorp, Britton, South Dakota, for \$7,500. The second top, WHR Elation 52d, went to Baca Grant, of Crestone, Colorado, for \$6,500. WHR Super Sally 24th topped the female end of the sale at \$4,550 and went to Theiss Ranches, Pampa, Texas.

## BELSKY DISPERSION SALE

Ninety-eight lots of Herefords sold at the Ed Belsky Hereford dispersion sale at Merriman, Nebraska, at an average of \$437 for each animal. Seventeen bulls averaged \$737 and seventy-eight females averaged \$397. The top bull, Earl Mischief, sold to William Sidley, Encampment, Wyoming, for \$2,500. Seven bulls sold at \$1,000 or over. The female top, Princess Mischief, brought \$1,025, paid by Dan Thornton, Gunnison, Colorado.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER